Part Two

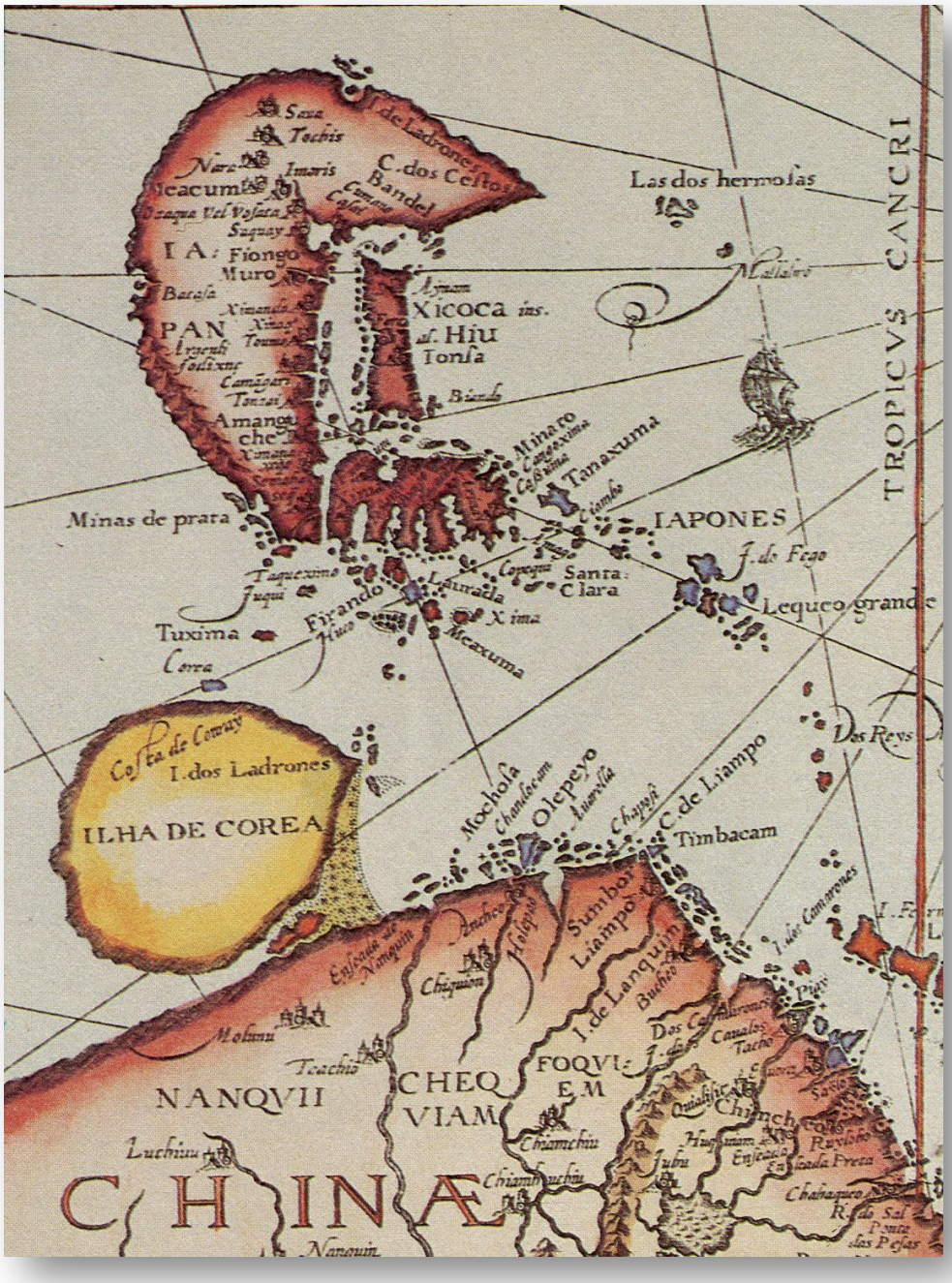
Iaponiae Insulae Descriptio in Abraham Ortelius' Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, 1595
This is the first printed map of Japan, the remote, shrouded-in-mystery island, to appear in an atlas. Ortelius based his work on a manuscript supplied by the famous Portuguese chart maker, Luis Teixeira, who was cartographer to the court of the Spanish King. Of the thousands of islands that comprise Japan proper, the map includes only the three primary islands of the archipelago. Korea is depicted as an elongated island. The upper right quadrant features a statement in Latin 'Cum Imperatorio, Regio, et Brabantiæ privilegio decennali. 1595', which gave the Royal and Brabant privilege for ten years, beginning in 1595.Three lovely frigates sail the high seas, and both the title and scale cartouches are exquisite. It was a milestone map of Japan at the time, and remained very influential until the Martini map of 1655.
The map shows three of the main islands of Japan, only lacking mention of Hokkaido (Yezo or Ezo) in the north. Kyushu is clearly shown as an island and the relative size of Shikoku was more accurate than by Cysat. The map show a number of place-names, including 'C dos Cestos,' or Misaki-asi, the southernmost cape in the island of Honshu, and the only name derived from Portuguese on any of the islands, and probably named for the fishing baskets that Portuguese sailors saw there.

Hemispheriu ab Aequinoctiali Linea, ad Circulu Poli Arctici by Cornelius de Jode, 1593 (#433)

Detail: Iapan [Japan] displayed equidistant from North America and Asia

Iaponiae Insulae Descriptio, Luis Teixeira, 1595, 36x48 cm

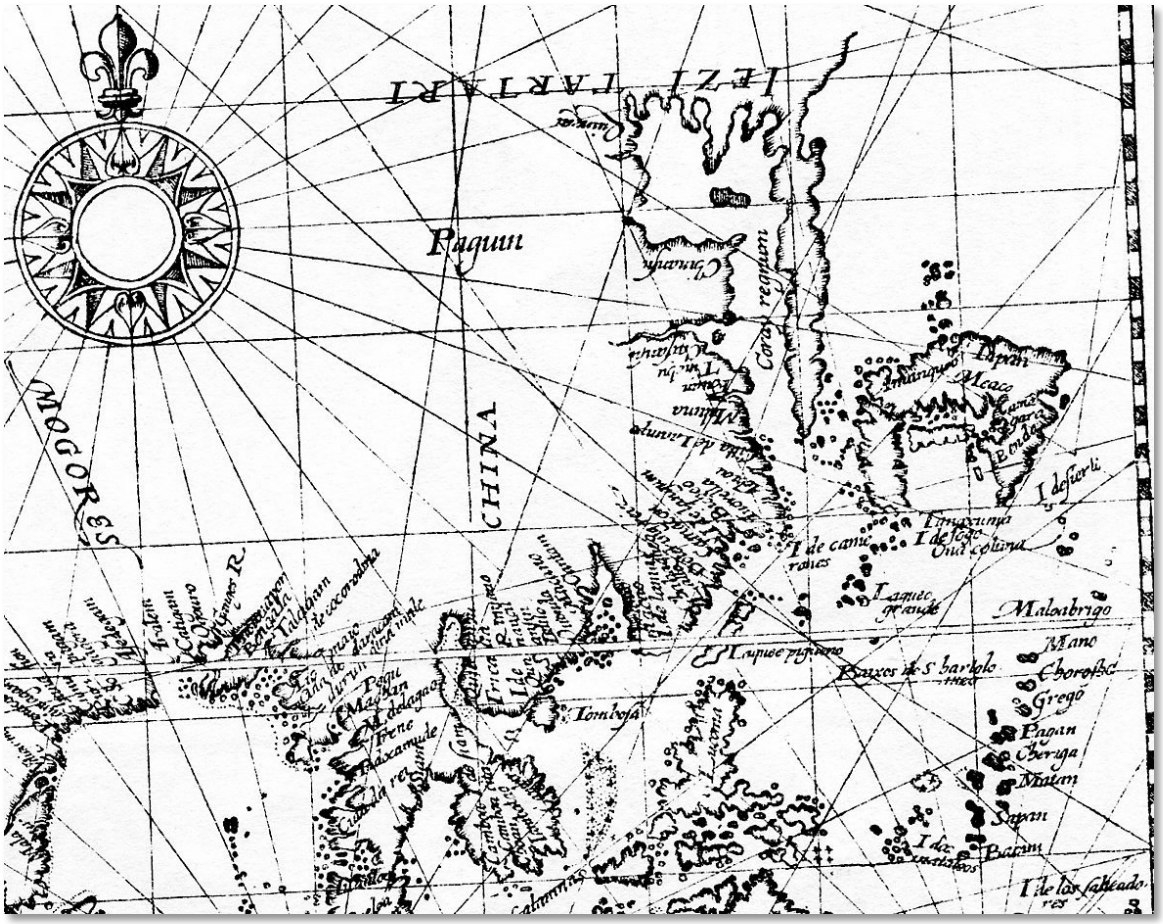
As the center of the map trade moved from the Mediterranean to the Low Countries, both Ortelius and Plantin in Anrwerp and Hondius and Plancius in Amsterdam relied heavily on Teixeira's maps. Reformation and Counter-Reformation activities, politics, and royal-succession problems produced conditions of intermittent competition and cooperation between Iberian and Netherlands map makers. While Spain controlled Portugal and the Low Countries, Dutch publishers benefited from new information concerning Spanish and Portuguese maritime discoveries. In a letter dated February 20, 1592, Teixeira wrote to the Flemish cartographer Ortelius that he had recently received from Asia the materials for his new map of Japan and was dispatching this courier to Antwerp. Included were traditional Japanese configurations such as those found painted on early screens. It is believed that one of Teixeira's sources was a manuscript map by Ignacio Moreira, a prominent Jesuit cartographer who was in Japan in the 1580s. Teixeira also incorporated Japanese information that could not have been acquired from European experience. Combining new intelligence from Portuguese traders and missionaries, this map became the most current depiction of Japan available in Europe. It was used in Dutch atlases well into the 17th century. Compared with the Vaz Dourado chart above, the two most striking features are the east end of Honshu, bending more correctly toward the north, and the thin, carrot-shaped, insular Korea. Only two towns are shown in Korea: In the northwest, "Tauxem" appears approximately where Pyongyang is today; and in the southwest, "Corij" is noted. Other features include the small islands off the south tip named the "Ilhas dos Ladrones," or "Islands of Pirates." The three main Japanese islands are sized comparatively correctly for the first time, although Honshu should be oriented more to the north, and Hokkaido, the large island north of Honshu, has yet to appear. The capital, Meaco (Miyako, Kyoto), is prominently located near the large lake Biwa-ko. Some names used on earlier Vaz Dourado maps are eliminated, and the toponymy is now different and more legible. Sakai is shown, while its neighbor Osaka is not. Cangaxuma (Kagoshima) is alongside Sacetuma (Satsuma) at the south end of Kyushu, where Saint Francis Xavier first landed. Another few decades of experience would improve Portuguese mapping of Japan, but during this crucial period just before the beginning of Portuguese decline in the East and the rise of the Dutch, this was the standard by which such maps were measured.



Iapones on Arnold van Langren's map of Asia, 1596 (#436.1)
Very similar to Vaz Dourado's map of Asia shown above. Note "Corea" [Korea] is shown unusually as a circular island. Oriented with East at the top.

Totius Orbis Cogniti Universalis Descriptio.
This world map was published in Merula's 'Cosmographiae generalis libri tres' and engraved by Jan van Doetecum, after the map engraved by his father Baptista van Doetecum for Petrus Plancius' world map of 1590. The map is embellished with four corner inserts in oval frames. The one in the upper right-hand corner contains a miniature: map of Japan, 'Iapan'. The legend beneath the map reads; 'Iapania Insula pradi: ves auro aromatibus alijsque pretiosis mer Quinque regna haben to tidem do: minata Regibus [Japan's island Prado: the fragrant leaves of gold and other precious stones: five reins as many do, threatened the Kings]. The inset map of Japan varies greatly from the version that appears in the eastern hemisphere of the main map, and is copied from the map of the Far East engraved by Arnoldus and Henricus van Langeren and included in the 'Itinerario, Voyage of the Schipvaert van Jan Huygen van Linschoten, published in 1595-1596 (also shown above), itself after depictions in Portuguese portolan charts as early as about 1560.

Japan on Giuseppe Rosaccio's 1597 world map
Zipangri on the globe gores Nova et integra universi Orbis descriptio, by Willem Nicholai, 1603 (#424) being shown as a simple north-south rectangular island even though there was increasingly more accurate iterations.



Iapan [Japan] on the 1599 world map by Richard Hakluyt, The Principal Navigations

Summary of the European cartographic effort to date – 1600.

The globe which Martin Behaim constructed at Nuremberg in 1492 shows that there is some twenty-three degrees between the Asiatic coast and the large and definitely named island of *Cipangu*. The statement of the distance of *Cipangu* from the coast given by Polo and recorded graphically by Behaim was extremely too large, but a century was to pass after Behaim's globe was made before certainty began to be displayed by cartographers as to the island's position relative to the coast of continental Asia. Marco Polo's misstatement of its offshore distance was another of those errors through which geographical knowledge has been enlarged, for Columbus not only accepted the Polean estimate of Japan's distance from Asia but by some very wishful arithmetical thinking convinced himself that the island lay only some 2.,400 miles westward of the Canaries. "In other words," Samuel Morison writes, "his calculations placed Japan about on the meridian of the Anegada Passage, U.S. Virgin Islands." There is no doubt that when Columbus returned from putting his theories to the test he thought he had found in *Hispaniola* not an outlying island of a new world, but Polo's island of *Cipangu*,

In the great *Canerio* chart of the world of 1502 *(#307)*, the large island *Cingirina* is given position in relatively correct latitude some six hundred and fifty miles off the coast of Asia. The *Contarini* map of 1506 *(#308)*, showing no continental land north of

South America, locates the island *Zinpangu* in the great ocean space between Europe and Asia in the general latitude of the West Indies and considerably closer to Cuba than to China. Waldseemüller followed Behaim and placed it upon his map of 1507 *(#310)* some twenty degrees off the Asiatic coast, though in his inset western hemisphere map he moved it much farther eastward, locating it approximately in mid-Pacific between North America and Asia. In his map of I 507 or 1508 Joannes Ruysch *(#313)* adopted the Columbian misconception and asserted in a long legend that Marco Polo's island of *Cipangu* was not there delineated because the voyages of the Spaniards had identified it with *Hispaniola*. The maker of the *Lenox* globe of about 1510 *(#314)* made it an American island lying just off the coast of Central America. In the world map of Bernardus Sylvanus *(#318)* in the Ptolemy of Venice, 1511, the confusion introduced by Columbus failed to affect the cartographer's judgment, for there *Zampagu Ins* is shown in the same latitude as *Hispaniola* but about sixty degrees to the west of it, clearly intended as an offshore island of Asia rather than of America. The makers of the great portolanos-the *Cantino*, 1502 *(#306)*, the *Juan de la Cosa*, 1500 *(#305)*, the *King-Hamy*, 1502 *(#307.1)*, and the *Ribero*, 1529 *(#346)* made no effort to locate an island concerning which they lacked first-hand information from European mariners. In the Mercator cordiform map of 1538 it is shown as a small island about halfway between Asia and America.

Up to this period in European cartographical history the location of Japan upon the maps could only be conjectured, for no European was able to say from personal knowledge what were its latitude and longitude and what was its position relative to the Chinese coast. The circumstances under which it was first visited by a European are themselves in doubt. That distinction lies between Fernao Mendes Pinto, a Portuguese adventurer and, later, a lay brother in the Society of Jesus, and three storm-driven Portuguese sailors who jumped ship in Siam and set out for China in a junk. Both these accidental discoveries occurred in the year 1542. In 1549 St. Francis Xavier began there his celebrated mission.

But despite these European associations many years went by before the correct location of the islands and a correct portrayal of their shape began to find their way into the maps. In the *Gastaldi* map of 1546 *(#376), Cimpaga* is shown as an island far off the Asiatic coast, while in the Zaltieri map of 1566 *(#391)* it appears again in mid-ocean with the designation *Giapan*. And so we might go on, naming many more maps of the second half of the century in which Japan occupied a position close to Asia, in mid-ocean, or close to America, there seems that the cartographers of the time were still uncertain of its location. Even as late as 1590 it is shown in the northern hemisphere of Cornelis de Jode *(#433)* as a single island of a rough rectangular outline blocking the *Strait of Anian* and placed off the California coast about halfway to the Asiatic shore. In the same atlas on the map entitled *Asia, partium Orbis maxima*, De Jode places the island with approximate correctness close to the Asiatic coast and between 30° and 40° north latitude.

It was inevitable that the Portuguese influence would be strongly felt in the cartographical description of Japan. There is first of all to be considered the anonymous Portuguese chart in the Depot Hydrographique de la Marine, Paris, which formerly was accepted as proceeding from about the year 1553 and is reproduced with that attributed date by Count Teleki in his study of the mapping of Japan. Later historians, however, have asserted that the knowledge of the Philippines displayed by its maker is evidence of its construction having taken place sometime

after the year 1566, when the geography of the islands became known through the exploration and settlement of them by the Legaspi expedition. The question of date remains undecided. Upon this chart the Japanese islands are located between thirty and forty degrees north latitude and in approximately correct distance from the Asiatic coast. With it, or with whatever prototype it may have had, begins the error that in many maps of the ensuing century made the longer axis of the Japanese group run east and west instead of northeast and southwest. The shape of the islands here set forth, incorrect though it was, established a cartographical type that endured for nearly a century. In this portrayal, illustrated in the Linschoten map of 1596 *(#436.1)* the islands of Hondu and Kiusiu form a crescent of which the southward-pointing arms create a gulf wherein lies the island of Shikoku. Sometimes described as the "shrimp shape", this characteristic configuration had become familiar through its employment in the manuscript atlases of Fernao Vaz Dourado, beginning with that of 1568 in which is found a special map of Japan supposed to be the oldest of European origin. The earliest appearance in print of the shrimp-shaped Japanese group seems to have been in the Ortelius map of 1589 entitled *Maris Pacifici,* where it is drawn with some modification of the Vaz Dourado portrayal *(#409.1).* It is found in much closer resemblance to the Vaz Dourado map in the Linschoten of 1596, previously referred to, and in that form it continued to appear in the *Itinerario* as late as the edition of 1644.

An advance in truthfulness of delineation occurred when Ortelius procured a sectional map of Japan from Luiz Teixeira for his *Theatrum Orbis* of 1595. In this production one recognizes a second type of cartographical representation of Japan, also of Portuguese origin. The Teixeira map, constructed as early as 1592, was like those of the Vaz Dourado type in that the longer axis of the group ran east and west. It abandoned the shrimp-shape delineation, however, for one of somewhat greater correctness in which the eastern extremity of the island of Hondu turns northward instead of southward. In this map Korea lies to the westward of the Japanese group, completely detached from the mainland of Asia and bearing a legend that describes it as *Corea Insula*. Opinion as to the insularity or peninsularity of Korea was at that time as unsettled as it was with regard to Lower California on the other shore of the Pacific.

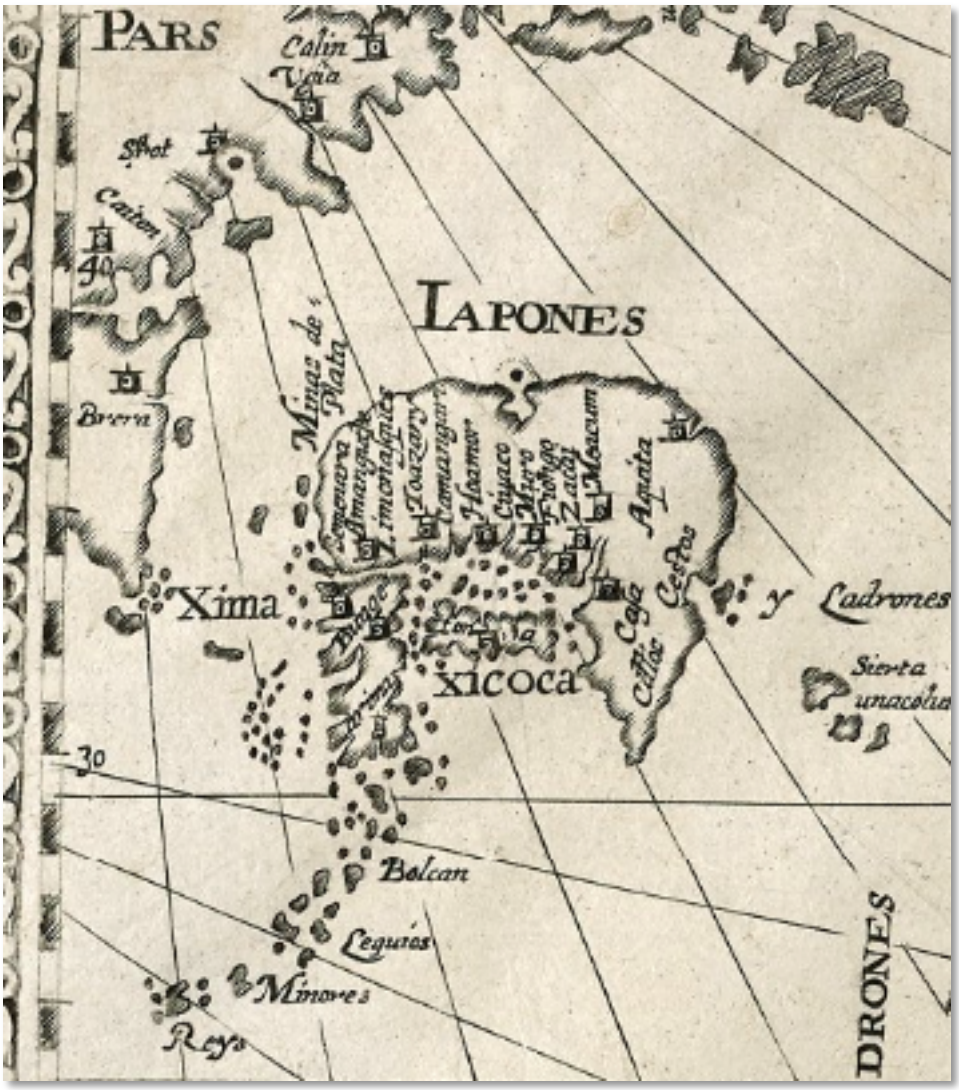
Again we turn to the Lopez de Velasco *Demarcacion* of about 1575 for an intelligent deduction from evidence by that time accumulated relating to the position of the Japanese group. In the text of that work we read that from the accounts of Portuguese missionaries, the author had fixed upon 30° north latitude and 150 leagues from the coast of China as the position of Japan. Upon the universal map of the Indies in the Lopez de Velasco manuscript this information is translated into the delineation of a narrow, strung-out archipelago, running in a general north and south direction parallel and close to a Chinese coast from which Korea, either as peninsula or island, is lacking. So far as correctness of the group's axis was concerned, this map was greatly in advance of its time. In the *Yndias del Poniente* map found in this same manuscript appears south of the Japanese group a chain of small islands called *Lequio mayor* and *Lequio menor* extending in a southwesterly direction towards the coast of China. This was an early appearance of the Lequeyo, Riu-Kiu, Lieou Kieou, or Lu-Chu chain that sweeps southwest from the Japanese group towards Taiwan, setting a division between the East China Sea and the Pacific. An interesting special map of this group was published by Buache in 1754 with the title *Carte du Royaume et des* Isles

de Lieou-Kieou Reduite d'pres les Cartes Manuscrites que le R. P. Gaubil a dressees en Chine le 6 Nouembre I752.

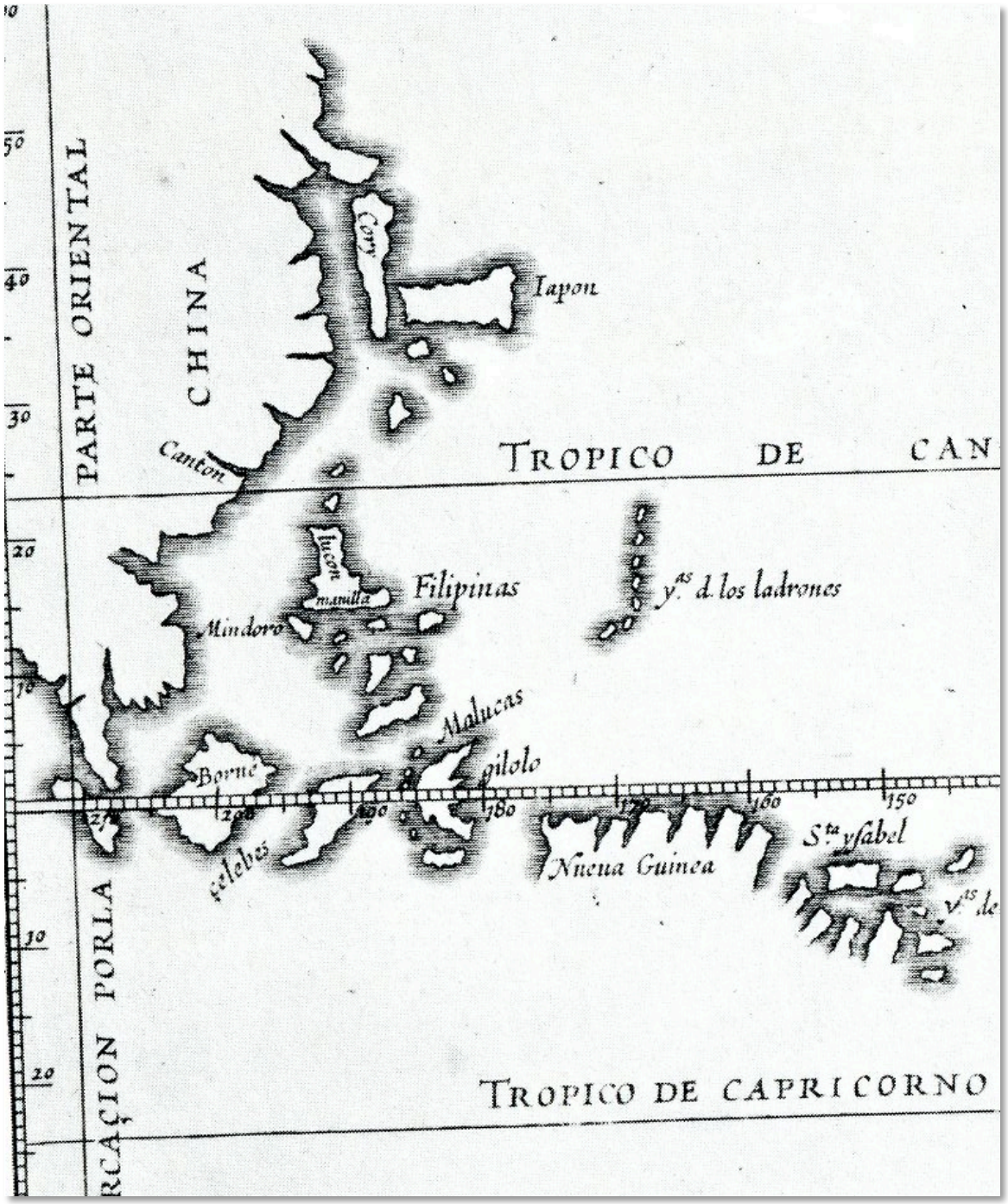
In the hemispheres of Peter Plancius of 1594, and in those hemispheres as re-engraved in 1596 and published by Joan Baptista Vrient we find for the first time on a printed map the Japanese group correctly located between 30° and 40° north latitude, about two degrees from the coast of Korea, here delineated as a peninsula. The source of the Plancius delineation seems certainly to have been the Luiz Teixeira map, but as Plancius map is dated 1594 and the Teixeira map was not published until 1595 it must be that Plancius knew the Portuguese map in manuscript before it was put into print by Ortelius. It has previously been said that this map was constructed about 1592.

The interpretation of data recorded in the Plancius map must have seemed sound to contemporary cartographers. The maker of the Wright-Molyneux map in the Hakluyt of 1598-1600, for example, has set forth the Japanese group in similar configuration to that of Plancius and in similar relationship to the Asiatic coast. The Plancius and Wright-Molyneux maps were among the best known and most widely circulated of the period. After their publication there was no real excuse for extensive error it the location by cartographers of the Japanese islands.

Hardly had Japan been correctly located in 1600 upon the maps when curiosity as to the components of the group began to be expresser by voyagers and cartographers. For nearly two centuries there after, however, a state of confusion existed as to the distinction between the northern island of the group and the neighboring Asiatic mainland with its unexplored Kamchatkan peninsula. A number of circumstances combined to bring about this condition of uncertainty. As early as 1565 it began to be said that north of the main island of the group lay an island called *Jesso*. Today we identify this island without hesitation as the important Japanese island of Yezo, but for a long time its position and nature were the standing enigma of the geographers, who gave the name indiscriminately to an island, to the peninsula of Kamchatka, to the mainland north of Kamchatka, and, as we shall see, to an east-running coast which existed only in the confusion of their thoughts. The Japanese themselves distinguished this island from the peninsula of Kamchatka, calling the one *Jeso Gasima*, that is, the *Island Ieso*, and the other, *Oku Jeso*, or *Upper Ieso*. This distinction seems first to have come to European knowledge in the map constructed by Johan Gaspar Scheuchzer for his publication in 1727 of Engelbert Kaempfer's *History of Japan*. In the meantime for nearly two centuries the cartographers exercised their choice of delineating Yezo now in one and now in another of the several positions and categories we have just enumerated.



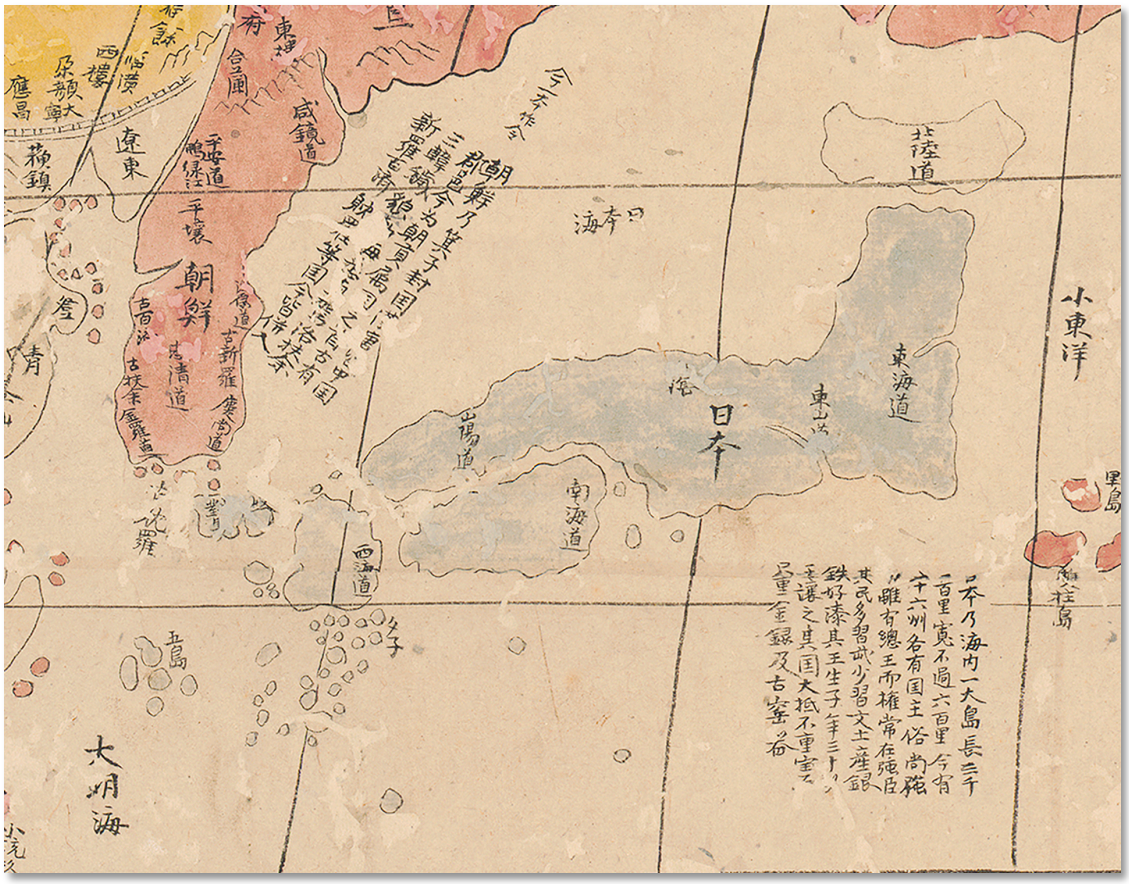
From Maris Pacifici quod uulgo mar del zur cum regionibus circumiacentibus, insulisq[ue] in eod ... by Gabriel Tatton, 1600



An east-west Iapon [Japan] perpendicular to Cory [Korea] on the 1601 map by Antonio de Herrera

From a map of Asia by Abraham Ortelius, ca. 1601

Japan on the world map by 1602 Matteo Ricci, Kunyu Wanguo Quantu 坤輿萬國全圖
(#441)

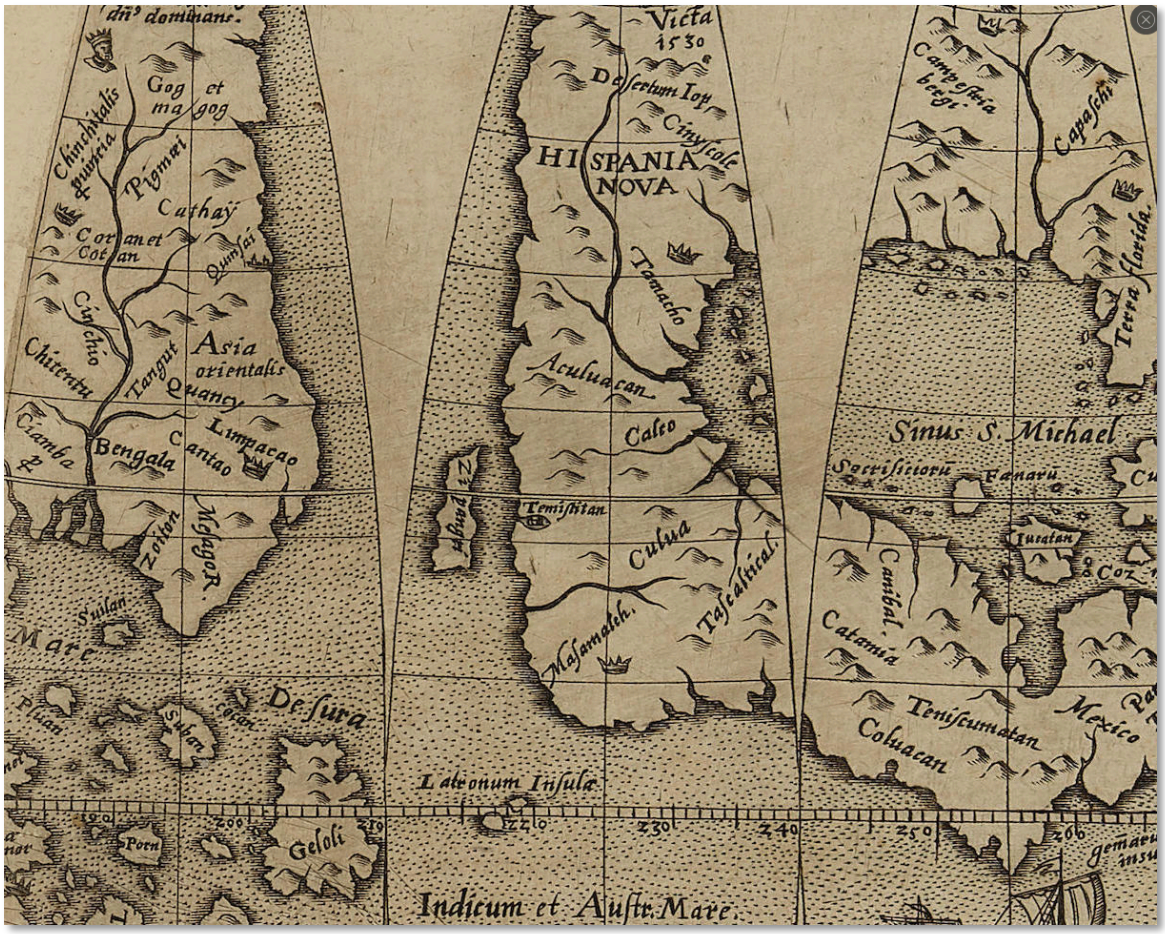


Detail of Japan, Map of the World, MacLean Collection, MC17363

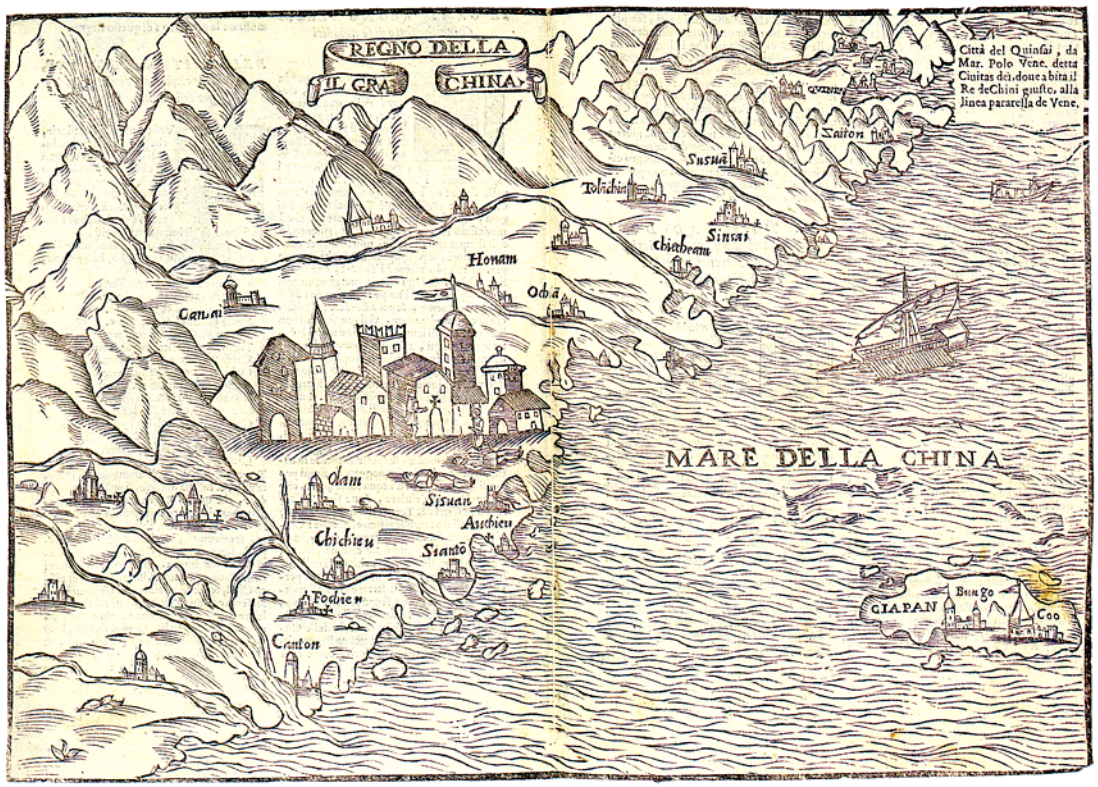
Detail northern polar projection showing Japan and Mount Fuji, Map of the World, MacLean Collection, MC17363

Iaponiae Insulae, 1603, by Abraham Ortelius

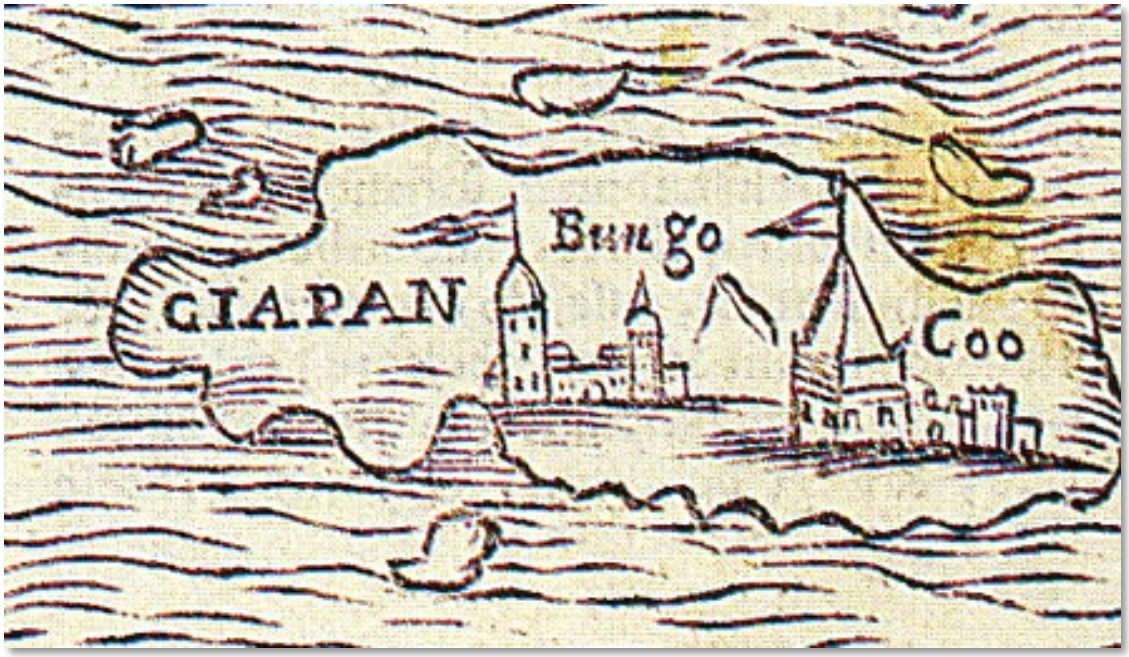
Although as early as 1617 the more accurate map of Japan by Blancus appeared, this map retained influence until more than 50 years after another milestone map of Japan appeared by Martini map of 1655. Note Korea shown as an island and Iaponia [Japan] is oriented east-west



Zipangri {Japan] depicted on the globe gores Nova et integra universi Orbis descriptio, by Willem Nicholai, 1603 (#424) being shown as a simple north-south rectangular island even though there was increasingly more accurate iterations



China from Mendoza's 'History of China', printed in Rome in 1585, still deriving its geography from Marco Polo - the text quotes Marco's description of Quinsai as the 'City of God'. Giapan [Japan] is shown on the right
The British Library C.114.d.9.



China by Jodocus Hondius, 1606-34 showing the main islands of Japan are a east-west orientation and also feature a portrayal of a Japanese craft. In one cartouche, a scene depicts the Japanese persecution of a Christian missionary, probably a reference to the martyrdoms in Nagasaki in 1597. 26 Catholics, including six foreigners and a 12-year-old Japanese boy were crucified as a result of a decrees against Christianity passed by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. All 26 became saints. It was this conflict that ultimately led to Japan becoming a closed country for several centuries. (#441)

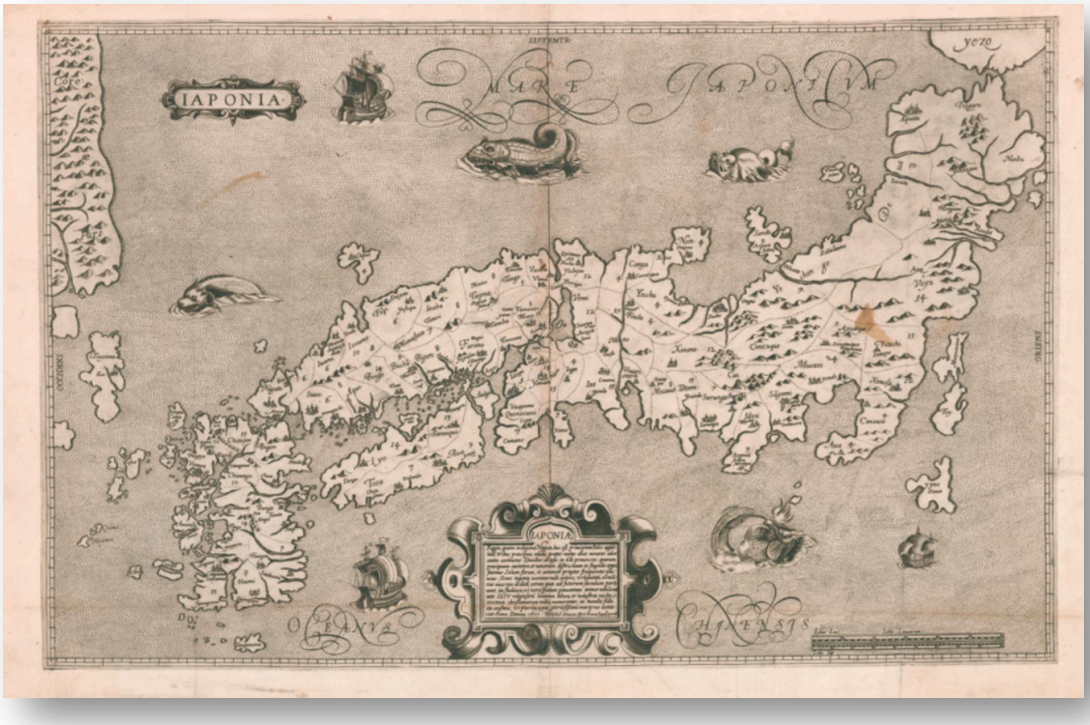
China, 1609. An anonymous manuscript that must have used authentic sources, possibly Jesuit. It shows the main island of Japan in a east-west orientation

Copperplate map of East Asia entitled 'Sinarum Regni aliorumque regnorum et insularum illi adiacentium descriptio', c.1597–1609. The undated and anonymous map was copied and printed from a now-lost Spanish draft that had recently arrived in Spain, probably from Manila, that had been completed in Madrid by 1609. The Brirish Library Cotton MS Aug.I.ii.4S (#448)

The Asian portion of Father Matteo Ricci's 1604 world map Kunyu Wanguo Quantu showing a very fair representation of Japan. Ricci's sources were the first and later editions (published from 1570) of Abraham Ortelius' Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, the maps of Gerard Mercator and, for the third version of the world map, the large world map by Peter Plancius, 1592. (#441)

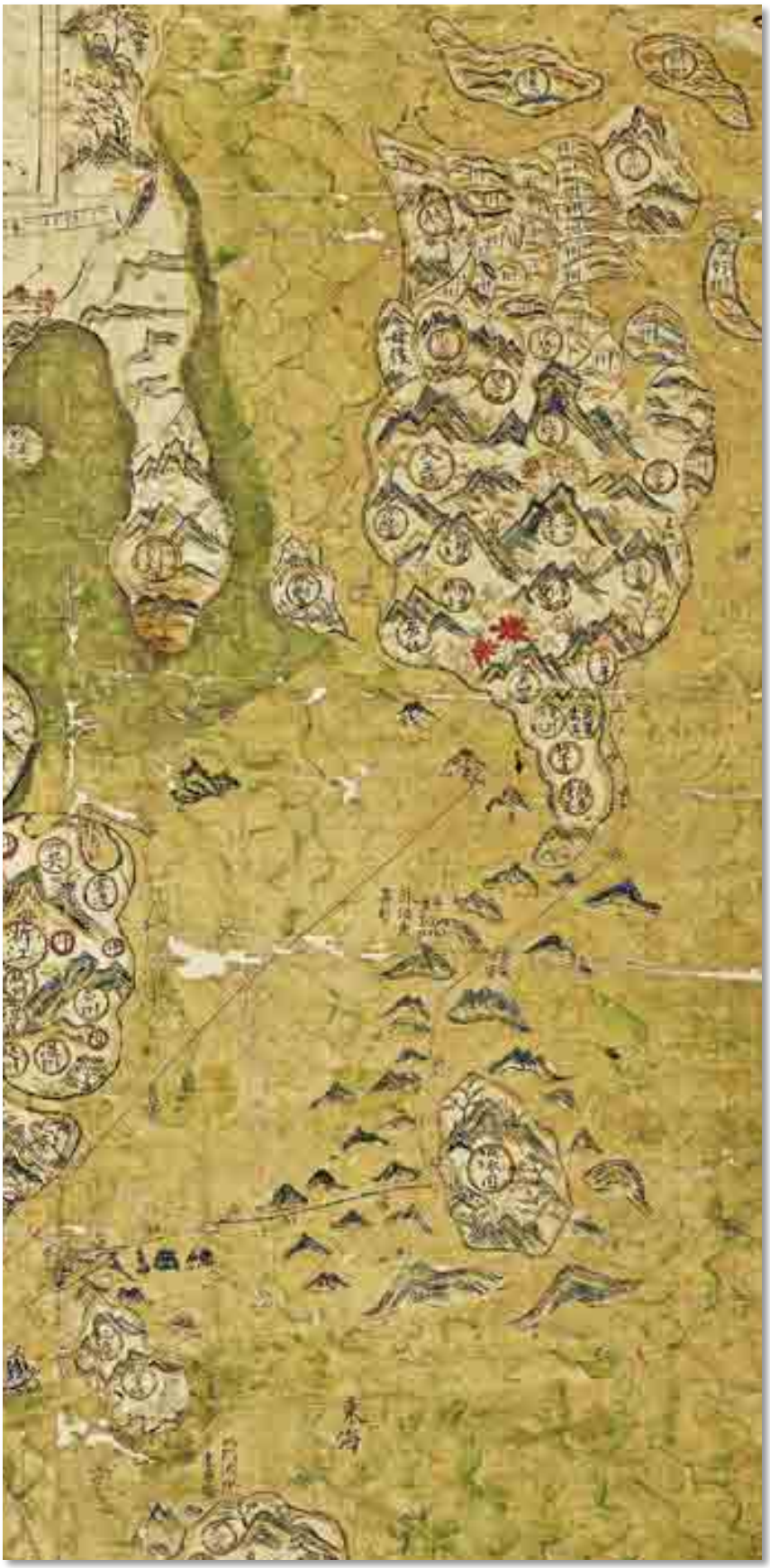
Iapan, 1610, Gerardus Mercator

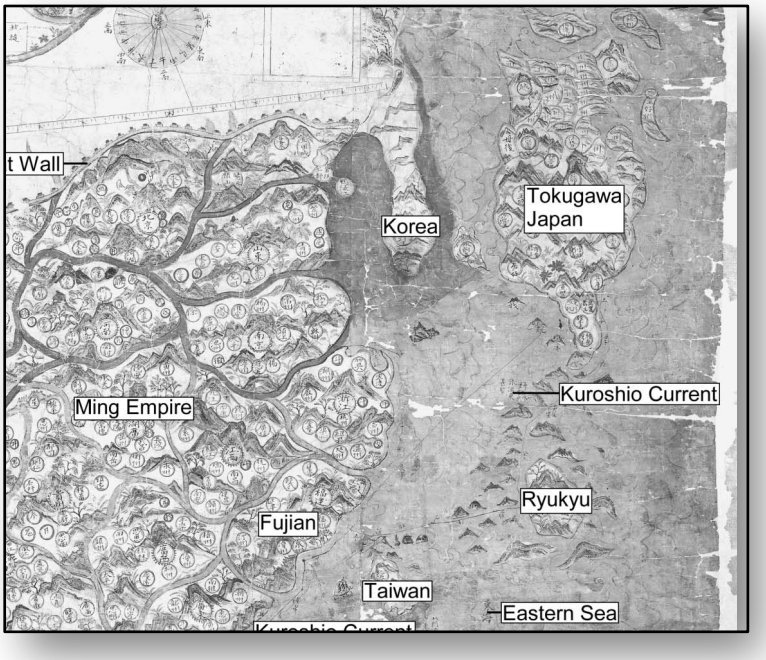
European merchants who traded with Japan visited only the island of Kyushu, where they obtained porcelain and lacquer ware. Kyushu is set at right angles to the island of Honshu, giving the country an entirely wrong shape, and the map excludes the northern island of Hokkaido, which was also ignored by the Japanese, since its inhabitants, the Ainu, were not regarded as truly Japanese. The accompanying text tells of the magnificent palace of the Taico (ruler, the origin of the word "tycoon"), with a hall comprising 1,000 tatami mats. Rooms were measured in these mats, each 6 x 3ft (2 x 1m) in size; a good-sized room would be about six mats. The text also mentions that a Jesuit seminary had been founded where Japanese and Portuguese learned each other's languages.



loponiae Regio quam undigeniae Nippon, 1617, by Christpher Blancus and Inacio Moreira Blancus' map of Japan is the earliest known printed example of Moreira's work, and was at the time the most accurate western depiction of the country. The orientation and the proportions of the island of Kyushu and Shikoku to the mainland, and the inclusion of Yezo (Hokkaido) all represent great improvement from the Teixeira-Ortelius map. It is the first to name the 66 provinces of Japan and contains double the number of place names compared to that of Ortelius. The map would later be the model for works produced by Bemardino Ginnaro, Antonio Francisco Cardim, and Robert Dudley. However, despite the numerous improvements the Ortelius model would continue to be the more widely used, and it would not be until Joan Blaeu published his map some 50 years later that the Ortelius model was ultimately superseded.

The recently rediscovered Selden Map of China (c.1619)/ Dongxi yang hanghai tu [東西洋航海圖] (#490.2) Ink and watercolor on paper. Its outstanding feature is the system of shipping routes and emphasis on ports in Southeast Asia, from Japan to Sumatra, that bound the region's mountainous hinterlands and littorals together through trade. Distorted versions of Japan and Korea as well as prominent depictions of Taiwan, Luzon and Visayas all suggest the increasing importance of the western Pacific or Dong Hai.
Detail of the Japanese islands shown below.




t Wall
Korea
Tokugawa
Japan
Kuroshio Current
Ming Empire
Ryukyu
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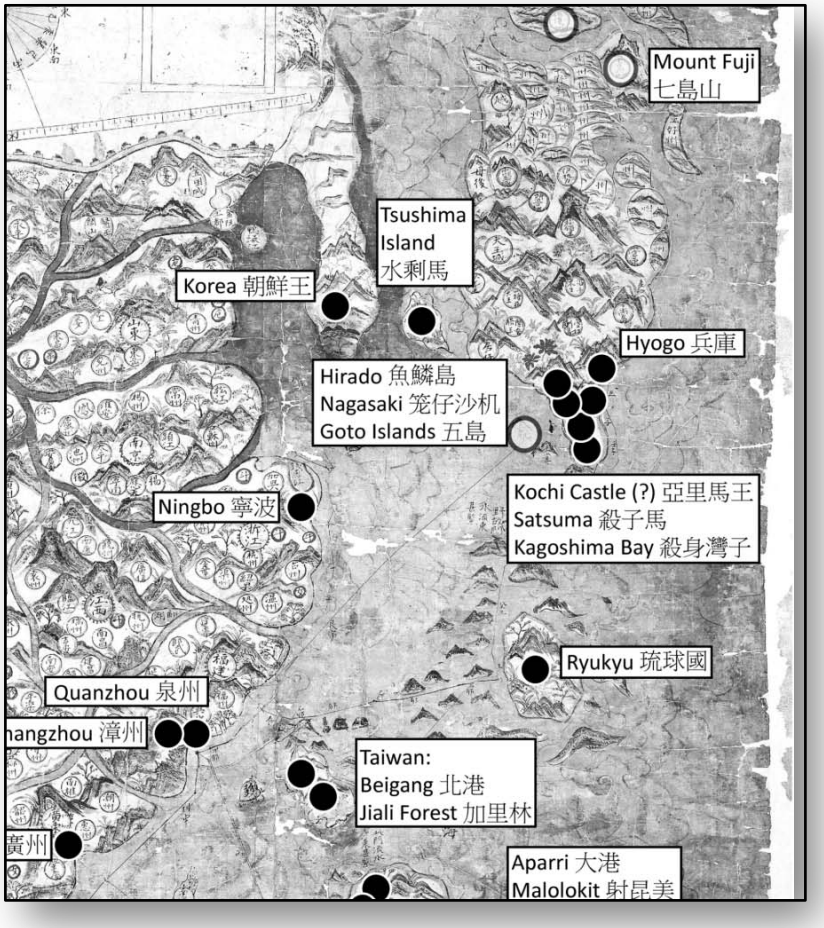
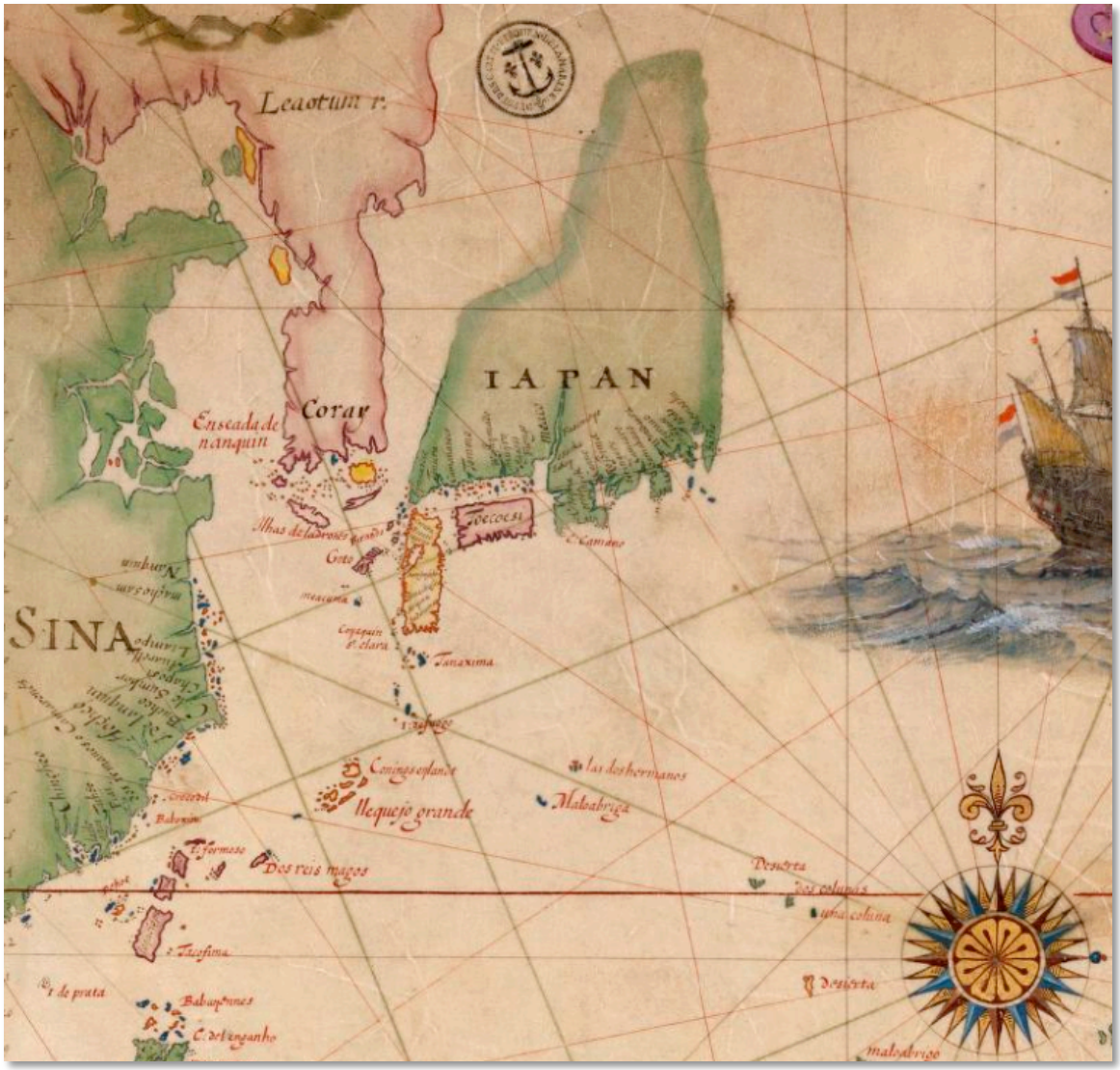
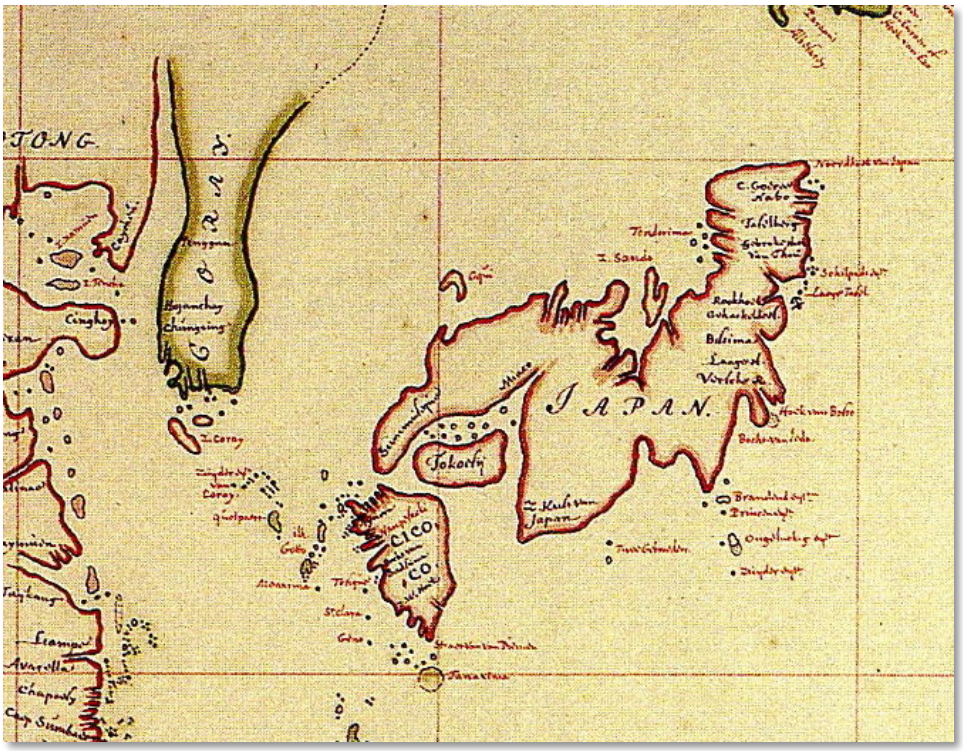

Mount Fuji
七島山
Tsushima
Island
水剩馬
Korea 朝鮮王
Hyogo 兵庫
Hirado 魚鱗島
Nagasaki 笼仔沙机
Goto Islands 五島
Kochi Castle (?) 亞里馬王
Satsuma 殺子馬
Kagoshima Bay 殺身灣子
Ningbo 寧波
Ryukyu 琉球國
Quanzhou 泉州
angzhou 漳州
Taiwan:
Beigang 北港
Jiali Forest 加里林
廣州
Aparri 大港
Malolokit 射昆美

The Selden map almost certainly was not made in Japan. It shows only the southern part of the country and details are poor compared with those for Luzon and the coast of Vietnam. Many of the actual labels on Japan are simply zhou, meaning province, and the scale-like sections of the upper part of the single island look like a traditional eighth-century Gyoki map, but one hastily copied or perhaps memorized. Like Japan on the Selden map, Gyoki maps frequently framed Japan using Sado Island [佐渡, Zudou Zhou], Kyushu and Shikoku (labeled Yalima Wang, on the Selden map). Some unique transliterations of famous Honshu tourist sites that would have been little known in China are given, such as Yishi [伊勢, Ise Shrine] and Qidao Shan [Seven Island Mountain], the latter an idiomatic reference to, with depiction of, Mount Fuji. The map does reflect a reasonable knowledge of the dense scatter of the islands off the southwest coast of Kyushu, which Chinese and European traders frequented, as well as Tsushima Island [Shuishengma], gateway for trade with Korea.



Japan on the 1622 chart Mar del Sur. Mar Pacifico by Hessel Gerritsz

Chart of Japan by Manuel Godinho de Erédia, 1615-22

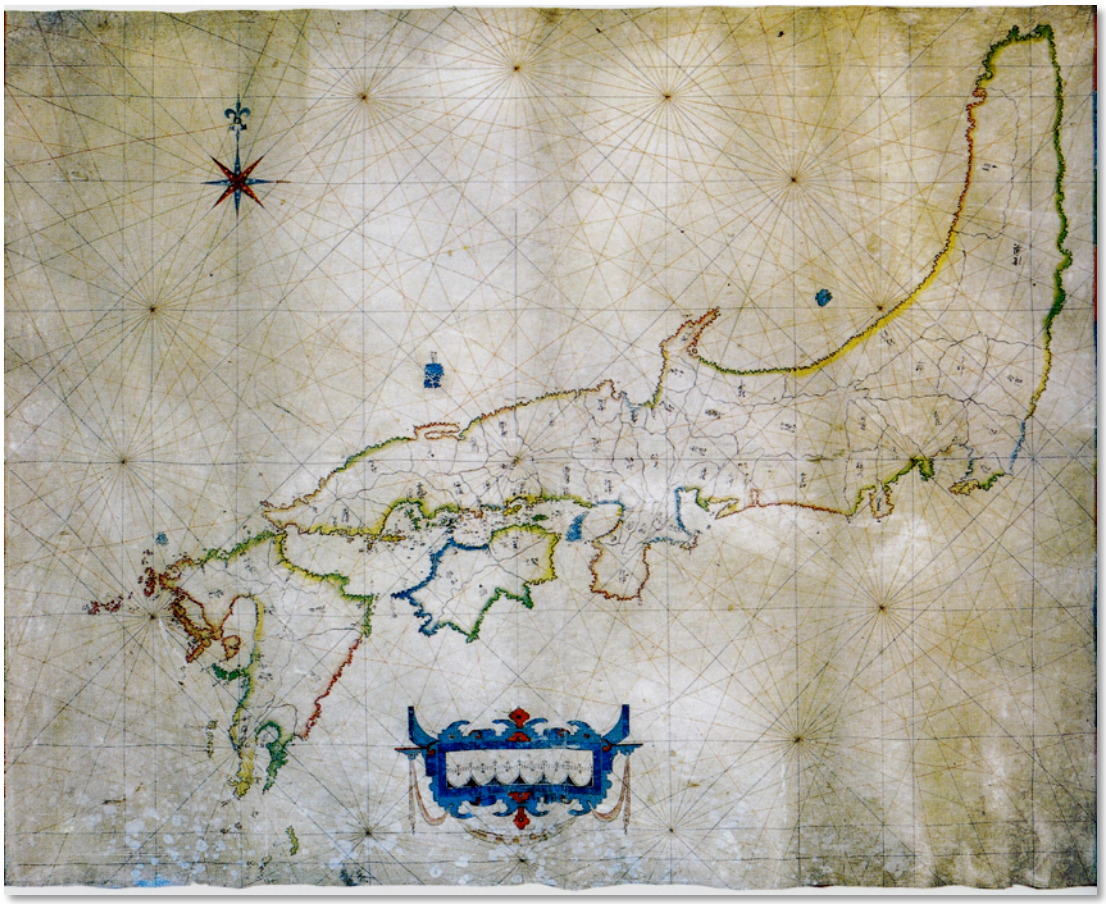


Japan on a 17th century map of Asia by Isaak de Graaf

The 1623 Chinese Terrestrial Globe by Dias and Longobardi (Ricci's successor as Superior General of the China Mission) showing a reasonable Japan. This effort can be regarded as the completion of Father Ricci's work. (#458)

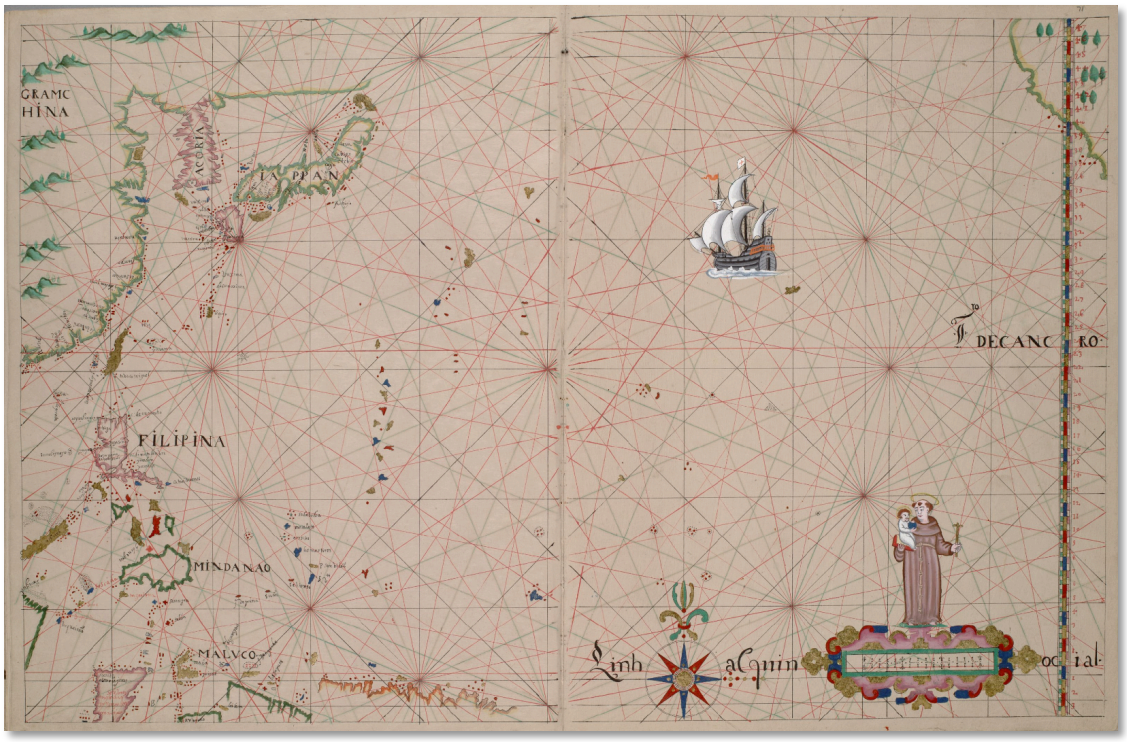
1626 map of China by John Speed

One of the first English-language maps of China. The costumed figures of Chinese, Japanese and Pegu men and women, there are interesting notes throughout the map on various historical and mythical aspects of China, including a region where men are seduced by wonderful illusions and dirt is spun into cloth. (#464)



The Japanese archipelago, 1625

Japan on a map of the Pacific, 1649, by João Teixeira Albernas



Japan on an anonymous Portuguese chart, 1630

Map of Asia, from Ephraim Pagitt's Christianographie, or the Desmption ... of the Christian World, not subject to the Pope, first published in London in 1635.
The map shows Corea as all Island, and unusual projection for Japan and names Luzon (Luconia) and Mindanao in the Philippines. The primary theme of the map is locating the Christian peoples of the world who are not Catholic. The map includes the following annotations:
Mushall the See of the Nestarian Patriarch
Tanana more Christians than in the Latin Church and uder ye Par: of musal
Persia III this Contri are Armenians and many sorts of Christians
Tarsus Some Christi ails Some nevit that the wise men came to Christ duelt here
The Abissine Christians under Prester John

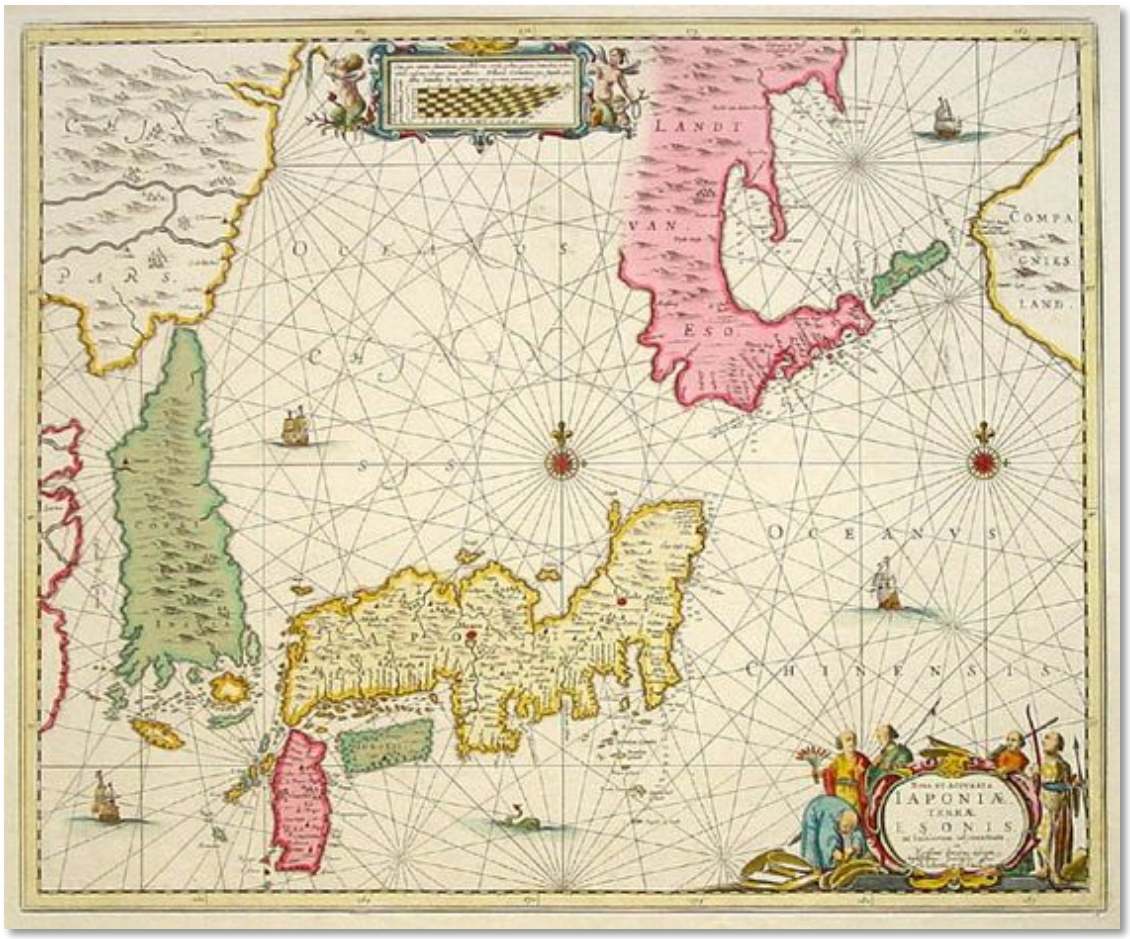

45
Iapan Some
Christ
40
35
30

Japan on the chart of Southeast Asia by João Teixeira Albernaz, 1643

George Louis Lerouge: Carte du Japan et de la Coree. Atlas leaf, 1748, Paris, 20 X 27.4 cm, The cartouche recalls that of Kaempfer's map on p.42


YEDSO
THE
The Isles of IAPON or Niphon
OCHIO
C H I N A N or
Tropick of Cancer
A New Mapp of y Empire of
CHINA
With its severall Provinces or kingdomes
Together w.th the adjacent Isles of Iapon or Niphon
Formosa Hainan etc


60 120 180 240 300 360 420
English Miles
Parts Unknown
LAND of IESSO
C. Patience
St. James Bay
Robben I.
Str. of the Company's Land
Salmon Bay
Acquas
Tessoy Ter.
Matzimay
Silver mines
Peak of Anthony
Genthouri
Focapite
C. Eroen
Ysan
High Land
C. Tessoy
Onisu R.
Kingon I.
SEA OF COREA
Sungaar
Aquita
N. Point
Nabo
Schildpads I.
Toy
Sando
Toqui I.
Tayma
Noto
Deva
Yedo
Inaba
IAPAN
Foqui
Farima
Meaco
Xiano
Coxuque
Ava
Idzu
Princes I.
Suringo
Bitchu
Yamaguski
Quinoxumi
Ongelucking I.
Nava
Ionsa I.
South I.
Figen
Bugo
Fonsa
Bongo
BONGO I.
Gotto
Nangasak
Osumi
Satsuma
Oino
Str. of Dimen
Tanaxima I.
Isle del Fuego
THE GREAT SOUTH SEA
I. Queso
Pequin
Los Hermanos
Amsterdam I.
Tropick of Cancer
Utrac
Timas

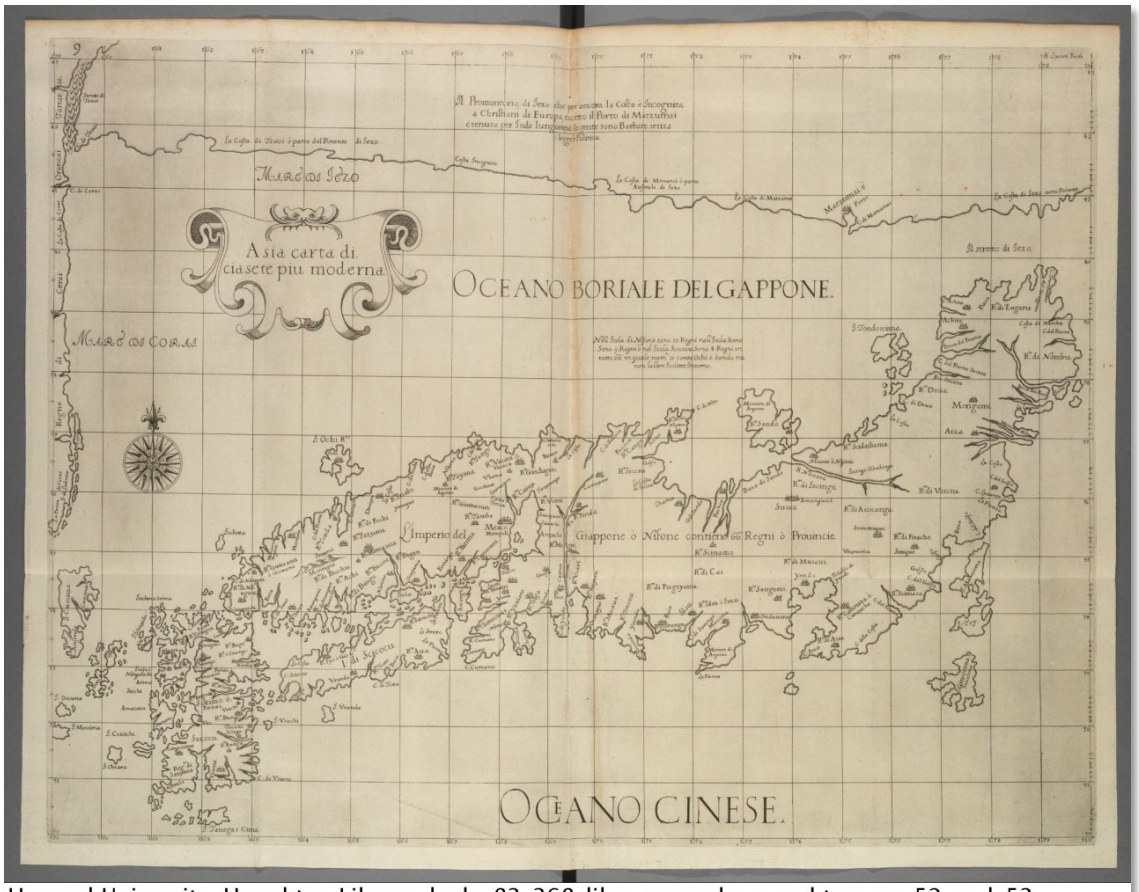

LANDI
VAN
ESO
OCEANVS
CHINENSIS
IAPONIÆ
TERRA
ESONIS

Ipania on the 16th century globe by Jodocus Hondius

Sekaizu narabini Nihonzu byobu, 1640

A map of Japan, 17th century, Namban Bunka-kan.

This map of Japan is from Katip Celebi's 1732 geographical dictionary, Kitab-I cihannuma [Mirror of the World]. Celebi's translation of Gerardus Mercator's Atlas Minor into Ottoman Turkish in 1653-1655 heralds the twilight of Islamic cartographic innovation and the rise of copying maps in the European model.

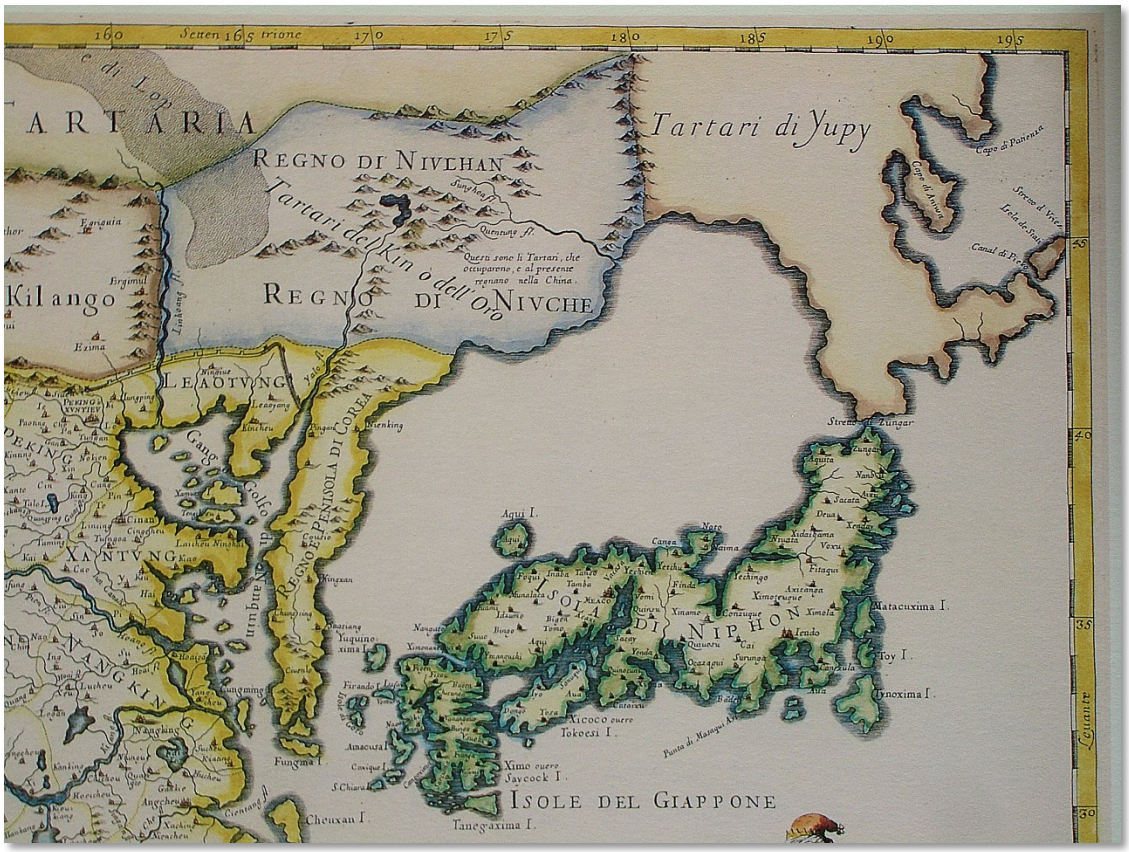


Harvard University, Houghton Library, hyde_83_368_libro_secondo_map_btwn_pp_52_and_53

Asia carta di cidsere piu moderna, Giappene [Japan] in the Dell'arcano del Mare by Sir Robert Dudley, 1646

Perhaps the most extravagant European portrayal of the area in any of the well-known maps to be named is found in a group of four sectional charts in Dudley's *Dell'arcano del Mare*, first published in 1646, too soon, it seems, for the cartographer to have learned of the voyage of Vries. Dudley's maps were sea charts intended for the use of the practical mariner, a circumstance that makes the grossness of error found in some of them all but incomprehensible. In these maps, almost identical but for a difference in size and for alterations in longitude, Japan is shown, as in the Ortelius map of 1595 and its Portuguese prototype, with its longer axis running east and west, but unlike Ortelius, or any other, Dudley carries the island from the Korean coast to points one-third or one-quarter of the way across the Pacific. North of Japan is displayed one of the longest of the world's coast lines, an unbroken reach of shore running east from the northern tip of the "island" of Korea virtually all the way across the Pacific. This is Dudley's *Iezo*. In one of his maps, the *Carta Terza Generale del' Asia*, the eastern extremity of *Iezo* is separated from California by the *Stretto di Iezo* of some three hundred leagues in width. In another of them, the *Carta partieolare della parte Orientale del' Isola di Iezo*, this strait, beginning at some 5° north of Cape Mendocino on the California coast, has been narrowed to about six hundred miles. Dudley's *Iezo* displays many legends of a geographical nature upon its coastline, and, conveniently situated about halfway of its length, a port called *Matzumai*, probably a

confusion arising from the existence of such a port on a small island between Honshu and the true Yezo of the Japanese group.

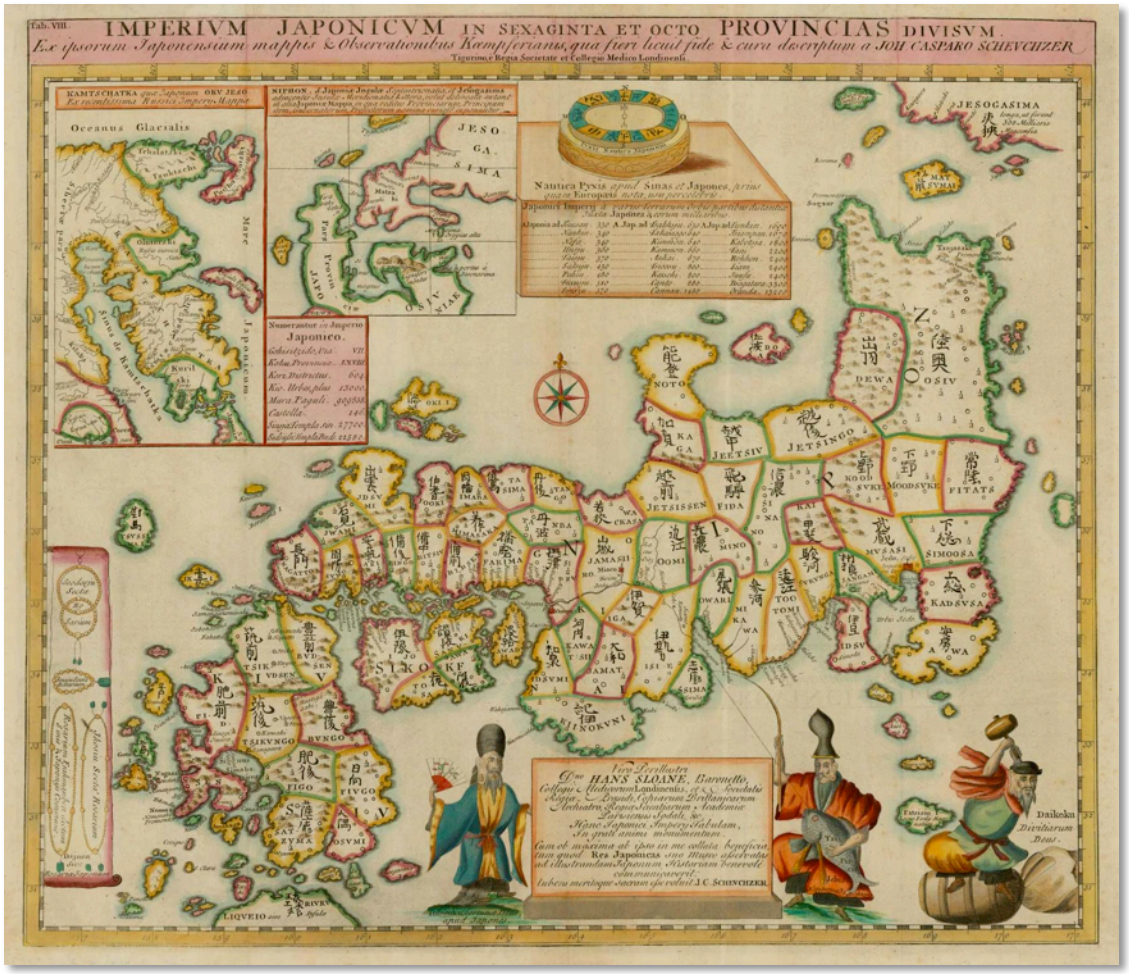


Maarten Gerritszoon Vries, 1650

The north-eastern corner of a map of China (in Italian): "The Kingdom of China, presently called *Catay* and *Mangin*, divided into its principal provinces on a most precise map". This part shows includes Sea of Japan and Japan itself. However, neither the *La Pérouse Strait* nor the *Strait of Tartary* were known to the cartographer, and therefore Hokkaido and Sakhalin are displayed as all part of the mainland, populated by the *Yupi Tartars*" (i.e. the "Fishskin Tartars", the old Chinese name for the Nanai people and related groups). However, the eastern coast of Sakhalin, with Cape Aniwa and Cape Patience are already charted more or less correctly (thanks to a Dutch expedition in the 1640s). Sakhalin and Hokkaido are both represented as one peninsula in *Yupi Tartars*, and are separated from Japan by *Stretto di Züngar* (today's Tsugaru Strait), between today Hokkaido and Honshu (*Isola di Niphon*). Probably in reference of the city of *Züngar* (today Tsugaru) shown in north of Honshu.

Hardly had Japan been correctly located upon the maps when curiosity as to the components of the group began to be expressed by voyagers and cartographers. For nearly two centuries thereafter, however, a state of confusion existed as to the distinction between the northern island of the group and the neighboring Asiatic mainland with its unexplored Kamchatka peninsula. A number of circumstances combined to bring about this condition of uncertainty. As early as 1565 it began to be said that north of the main island of the group lay an island called *Jesso*. Today we identify this island without hesitation as the important Japanese island of Yezo, but

for a long time its position and nature were the standing enigma of the geographers, who gave the name indiscriminately to an island, to the peninsula of Kamchatka, to the mainland north of Kamchatka, and to an east-running coast which existed only in the confusion of their thoughts. The Japanese themselves distinguished this island from the peninsula of Kamchatka, calling the one *Jeso Gasima*, that is, the Island Ieso, and the other, *Oku Jeso*, or Upper Ieso. This distinction seems first to have come to European knowledge in the map constructed by Johan Gaspar Scheuchzer for his publication in 1727 of Engelbert Kaempfer's *History of Japan*. In the meantime for nearly two centuries the cartographers exercised their choice of delineating Yezo now in one and now in another of the several positions and categories we have just enumerated.



A map of the Empire of Japan, made by Dr. Kaempfer [with maps of Kamchatka, Northern coast of Japan, as well as some statistical data, the mariner's compass, rosaries and images of three Gods added by Johan C. Scheuchzer] MDCCXXVII [1727].

There is little doubt that the sounds Broughton transcribed as *Insu* were identical to those of *Jeso*, a land that had been mentioned in European reports since before Japan had been visited. Maps of Japan had featured an island with similar designations (such as *Yezo, Jesso*, etc.) since at least the 1617 map of Christophorus Blancus in Rome, almost certainly based upon an original by Ignacio Moreira. While the map by

the Jesuit Girolamo de Angelis has subsequently become famous as an early representation of this island immediately to Japan's north, and influenced the work of Robert Dudley, it was unusual in attempting to show the entire area of the island. Given the paucity of European information about Japan, it was far more common for European maps to represent *Yezo* as 'enframing' the rest of Japan, in the style of Japanese maps of the period. This is most obviously seen in maps that were produced on the basis of Ishikawa Ryusen's, including those of Adrien Reland. It was on the basis of another of Ishikawa's maps transported to Europe that a young Swiss scholar, Johann Caspar Scheuchzer, produced a map to accompany his translation of Engelbert Kaempfer's famous work on Japan in 1727. The map selected by Scheuchzer showed a small island of *Matsumae* off the coast of the larger island. While almost certainly not the map Kaempfer originally envisaged as accompanying the text, it accords with the author's description in the book. There, the island of *Jezo* 'was invaded and conquer'd...by Joritomo, the first Cubo, or secular monarch, who left it to the Prince of Matsumai, (a neighboring Island belonging to the great Province Osiu) to be by him govern'd and taken care of'.

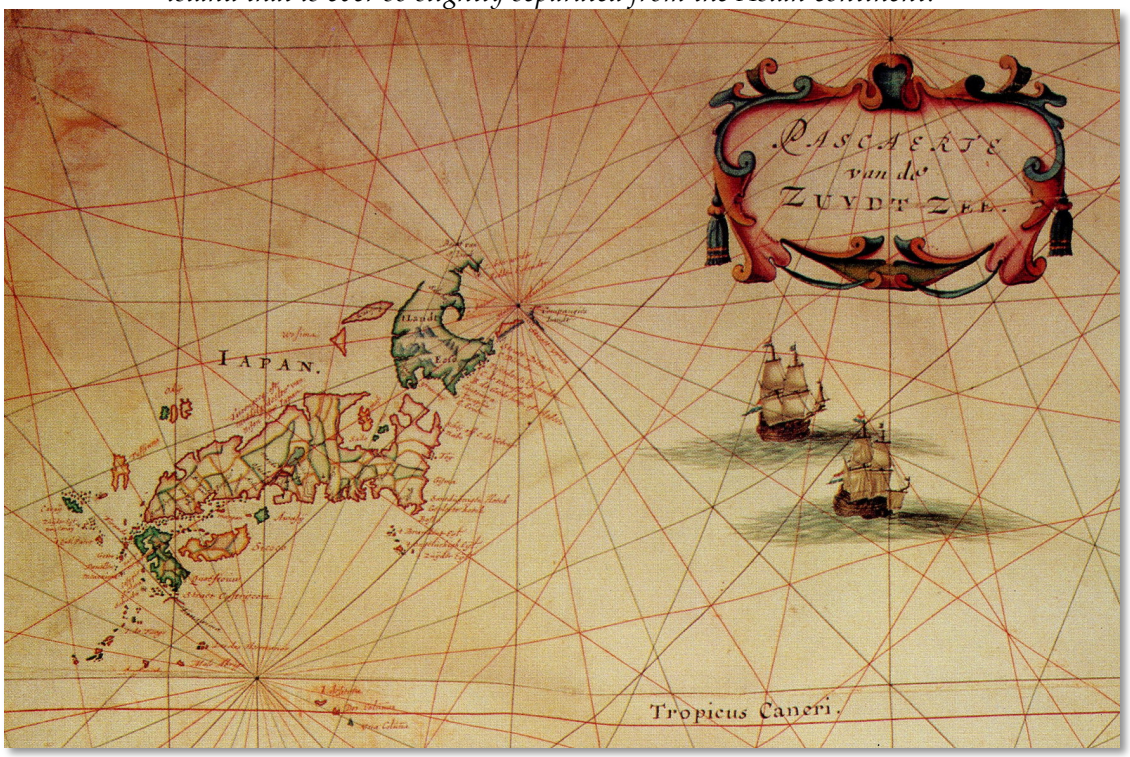
Scheuchzer's decision to adopt this mode of representation speaks to the naturally insular nature of the political imagination, where the perceived separation between an area of direct Japanese rule and that of the native *Ezo* inhabitants came to be literally represented on this map. As Kaempfer admitted on the page following the description above, 'As to [*Jeso's*] figure, I could not gather anything positive, neither from the accounts I had from the Japanese, nor from the Maps, I met with in the country, they differing much from each other'. This absence of definitive geographic information was indicated by the two alternative possibilities for the geography of northern Japan shown. The work Kaempfer had probably intended to base his map of Japan on was shown on Scheuzer's map in a cartouche that provided an alternative representation of the relation between Japan and '*Jesogashima*' (*Jeso* island(s)) to its north (see Walter 1994, plates 74–76a). A second cartouche represented *Yezo* as being an extension of Kamchatka, and was taken from a recent map of the Russian Empire.

As Scheuzer's offering of alternative geographies suggests, attempts to position these 'islands to the North of Japan' in relation to 'the coast of Asia' would long cause confusion for European mapmakers. Japanese geographical information that made its way back to Europe, via the narrow channel of transmission afforded by the presence of the Dutch at Nagasaki, was being collated with Chinese and Russian sources in the representation of this part of the world. As the map published in Kaempfer's account indicates, a central problem was that maps that sought to position Japan within this more expansive spatial vision had ran up against the insufficiency of knowledge regarding the far side of Asia

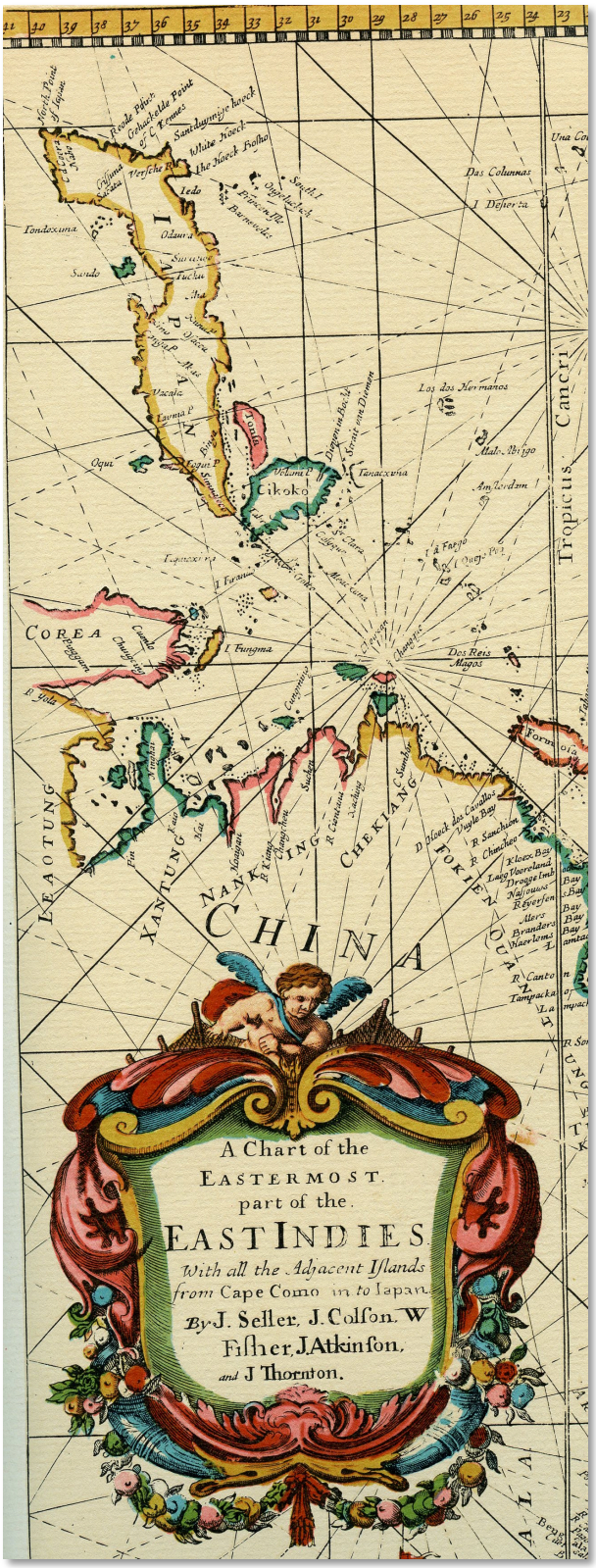
Nova et Accurata Iaponiae Terrae Esonis ac Insularum Adjacentium ex Novissima detectione descriptio (New and Accurate Description of Japan and Adjacent Islands Recently Discovered) Maerten Vries and Johannes Janssonius, 45 x 55 cm, 1658

Johannes Janssonius' chart of Japan, Korea, and the northern islands in his enlarged world atlas shows both progress and regression in the mapping of the territory. It included new data from discoveries made by the Dutch explorer Maerten Vries on a historic voyage he led from Batavia (Jakarta), Java, to make a reconnaissance of Japan in 1643. Vries contributed significant information on parts of Japan's main island of Honshu that had not previously been seen by Westerners, enabling Janssonius to refine the shape and add new place-names. Vries also explored farther north, but his ensuing charts of that region showed mixed results. This early attempt to map the complex area north of Japan widened the strait between Honshu (bottom center) and "Eso" (Hokkaido) and inadvertently joined Eso with both Sakhalin Island to the north and the southern Kuril Islands to the east (upper right). Vries is considered the discoverer of the volcanic Kurils, some with mountains 2,200 meters high that run 1,200 kilometers north and south between Kamchatka and Hokkaido. Being the first European to chart the coastlines surrounding these northern seas, Vries sailed between unknown islands in foggy conditions, improving but not perfecting the mapping of northeast Asia. He introduced an imaginary landmass of continental proportions, naming it "Compagnies Land" (after the Dutch East India Company, upper right), and called the nonexistent strait dividing it from Hokkaido, "Straet de Vries." This land became a geographical feature that would vex cartographers well into the 18th century. While he improved the shape of Korea from Teixeira's carrot-like insular form by widening its south coast, Vries continued to consider it an island.

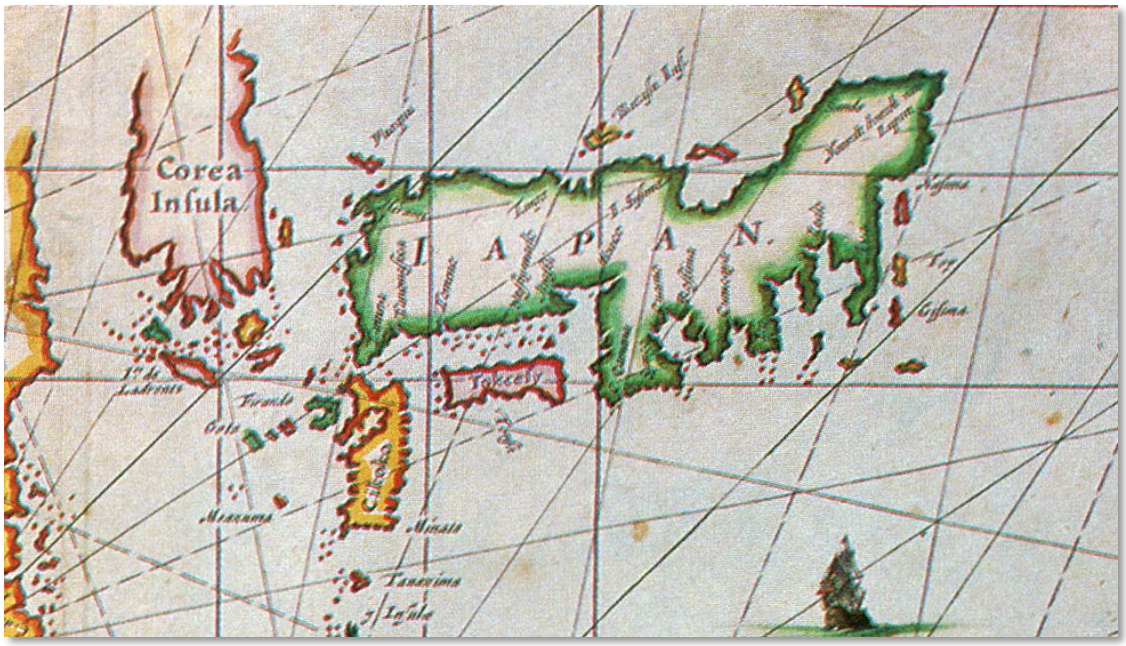
The diagram within the cartouche at the top explains the distortion that occurs as the Mercator projection chart proceeds toward the Arctic. While spacing of longitude was equal, latitude intervals increased as the distance from the equator was extended. This allowed navigation along the straight lines known as rhumbs that radiate from the compass roses. Since the rectangular format of the Mercator projection effectively stretches the North or South Pole across 360 degrees of longitude, all landmasses are progressively widened as the map proceeds north or south of the equator. More exploration was necessary to enable correct charting of the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk. The most problematic was the latter, enclosed by Hokkaido, the Kurils, Kamchatka, the Siberian coast, and Sakhalin Island. It would be many generations before Western navigators could solve this cartographic mystery, making the configuration of this remote region one of the last on earth to be understood.
This is important map of Japan and its surrounding, particularly with regard to the two large land masses Compagnies Land and t'Landt van Esso. The original motivation behind the discovery of the lands that influenced this map came from a 16th century Spanish legend. The legend tells of a land to the east of Japan that is so rich with silver and gold, that the homes if the inhabitants were constructed from precious metals. This legend ultimately prompted two voyages funded by the Dutch East India Company. While the first voyage proved to be a complete failure, a second under Maerten de Vries and Cornelius Jansz Coen in 1643 was a success with regard to the discovery of new lands. Sadly none of the land discovered resembled rang true to the old Spanish legend. The lands discovered by Vries and Coen were actually the island of Hokkaido, which is mapped as Eso and connected to the Russian island of Sakhalin and the Kruil islands of Kunashir (Staten Eylant) and Iturop (Compagnies Land). The lands and their erroneous delineations discovered by the Dutch explorers ultimately found their way into this map and remained in maps for around 150 years.
Another geographical misconception worth noting is the mapping of Korea as an obvious island that is ever so slightly separated from the Asian continent.



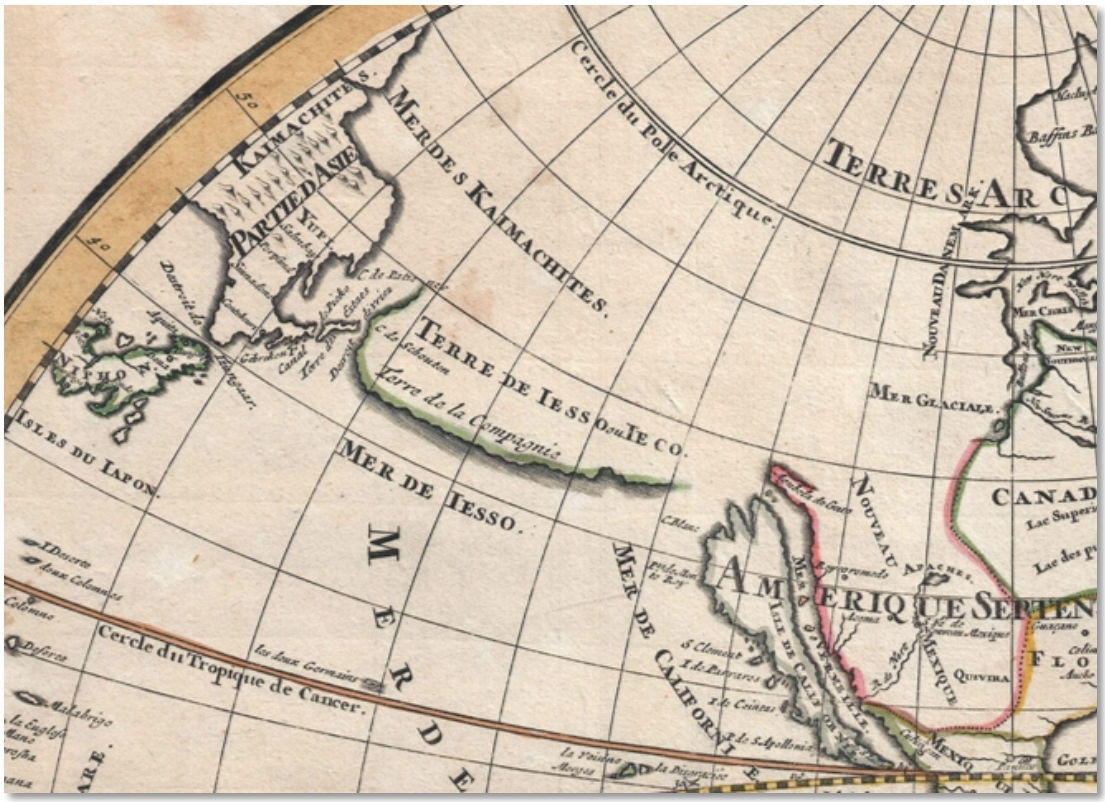
Japan on the 1650 chart by Joan Bleau



Japan on a chart in the 1670 Maritime Atlas by John Seller
Oriented with West at the top



Japan on the Hendrick Doncker map Pascaerte van Oost Indien 1670



Nicolas Sanson's Mappemonde Geo-Hydrographiqtte, 1695, in his Atlas Nouveau

Mare Del SVD Mare Pacifico by Vincenzo Maria Coronelli, 1691

The map, *Mare del Sud*, found in Vincenzo Maria Coronelli's atlas, the *Atlante Veneto* of 1691, shows the influence of the Vries voyage and, further, an ill-defined but extensive land mass in the northern Pacific bearing a legend which permits the observer a wide choice in the naming of it, that is, *Terre de Iesso, o'Ieco, yedeo, Esso, et Sesso Scoperta Dagli Hollandesi L'an 1643*. In the same cartographer's *Asia Divisa nelle sue Parti* (second sheet), found also in his *Atlante Veneto*, this land is further designated *Terra della Compagnia*. In his *Planisfero del Mondo Nuouo*, *Iesso* is shown as a huge island separated from *Staten Eylandt* by *Vries Strait* and from California by the *Strait of Anian*. Here, obviously, *Iesso* has been identified in the cartographer's mind with the *Compagnies Landt* of Maarten Vries. An identification of another sort is observable in the Sanson hemisphere of about 1695, found in his *Atlas Nouveau* of 1696-1720, entitled *Mappemonde Geo-Hydrographiqtte*. In this map the (*Terre de la Compagnie* shown at 45° in the eastern hemisphere becomes in the western, *Gama Land*, and stretches across the Pacific to the *Strait of Anian*. Just to make confusion more confounded this vast stretch bears the legend *Terres Inconnues ou Terres de Jesso*. Still further to complicate matters the Asiatic mainland north of Kamchatka is named *Terre de jeco*.

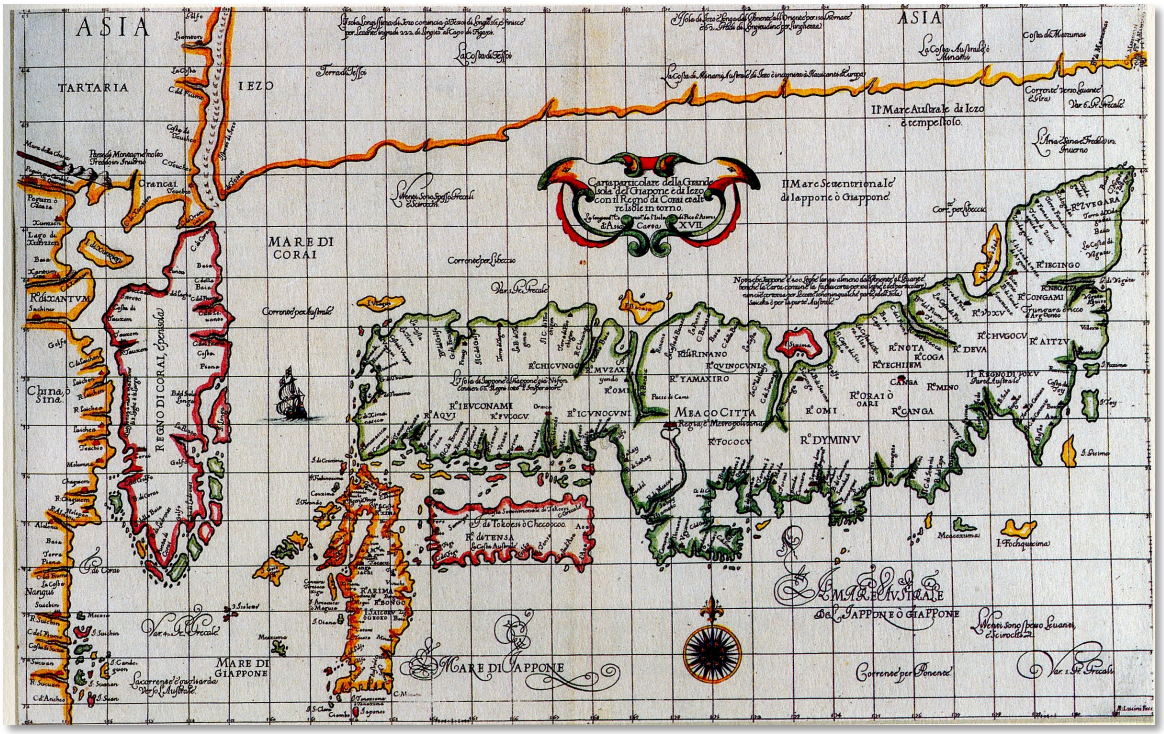
North of Japan is a large landmass labeled as *Terra d'Iesso e Eeco*. This island is on many 18th century maps. Historically, *Eso* (*Yedso, Yesso*) refers to the island of Hokkaido. It varies from a small island to a near-continent sized mass that stretches from Asia to Alaska. Here, however, Coronelli tells the reader that the Dutch

discovered the island in 1645, which indicates that he is eliding *Yesso* with two other North Pacific chimeras, *Gamaland* and *Compagnies Land*.

Juan, the grandson of Vasco de Gama, was a Portuguese navigator who was accused of illegal trading with the Spanish in the East Indies. Gama fled and sailed from Macau to Japan in the later 16th century. He then struck out east, across the Pacific, and supposedly saw lands in the North Pacific. These lands were initially shown as small islands on Portuguese charts, but ballooned into a continent-sized landmass in later representations. Several voyagers sought out de Gama's lands, including the Dutchmen Matthijs Hendrickszoon Quast in 1639 and Maarten Gerritszoon Vries in 1643. After this map's publication, Vitus Bering, a Danish explorer in Russian employ, and James Cook would both check the area and find nothing, finally putting to rest the myth of *Gamaland*.

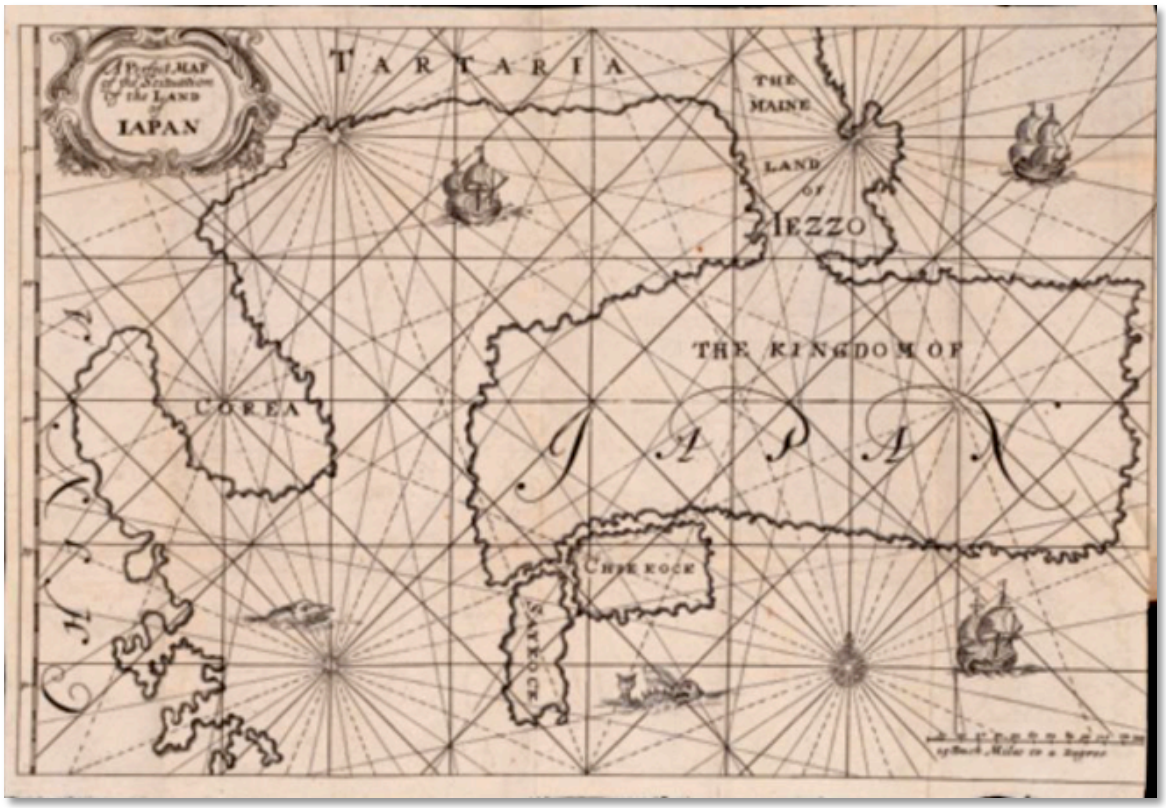
Compagnies Land, along with *Staten Land*, were islands sighted by Vries on his 1643 voyage. He named the island for the Dutch States General (*Staten Land*) and for the Dutch East India Company (VOC) (*Compagnies*, or Company's Land). In reality, he had re-discovered two of the Kuril Islands. However, other mapmakers latched onto *Compagnies Land* in particular, enlarging and merging it with *Yesso* and/or *Gamaland*. It is clear Coronelli had Vries and his voyage in mind, as a strait to the east of *Yesso* is named *Stretto Vriez*.

Detail showing Isola del Giapone {Japan} and Terre de Iesso, o'Ieco, yedeo, Esso, et Sesso Scoperta Dagli Hollandesi L'an 1643 in the Mare di Iesso



Robert Dudley: Carta Portico/are della Grande Isola de 'Giapone e di Iezo can il Renno di Corai et altre Isole in torno. Book leaf, dated 1661, 48.5 X 75.5 cm.
This map also appeared in the Arcana del Mare.
Across the top a large landmass labeled "Asia" runs east-west and has the name IEZO in the west

Nakabayashi Kichibei: Fusokoku no Zu [Map of the Land of the Rising Sun]. Woodblock print, dated 1666, 38.5 X 49.5 cm, Akioka Collection, National Museum of Japanese History, Sakura-shi, Chiba.



Francois Caron, Perfefeckte Kaety vande gelegentheydt des Landts van Japan [A true Description of the Mighty Kingdoms of Japan and Siam], 1661, by Francois Caron

The second English edition of Francois Caron's account of Japan, first published in the Hague in 1661. The map of Japan has been copied from the original, with English place names, scale and title. The single scale bar also replaces the two mileage scales in the 1661 Dutch version. Caron shows "Iezzo" as a land bridge between Japan and Tartaria; despite having spent 20 years in Japan, he did not think that Ezo (Hokkaido) was an island.

L'Asie reveue et augmentee par P. Duval geographe ordre. Duroy
A map of Asia by Pierre duVal, 1676

The map draws heavily on the geography of Nicolas Sanson. Hokkaido is shown attached to the mainland as a large peninsula labeled "Yupi", which is separated by a small strait from another landmass labeled "Ieco". Korea is drawn as a narrow peninsula on the Mercator-Hondius model.

This map of Asia was published in 'Cartes de geograplue Ies plus nouvelles et les plus fideles'. Although the map is dated 1676, it was included in the 1677 edition of the 'Cartes de geographie'. The title refers to the new information available to du Val about the area north of Japan. Hokkaido is shown as large peninsula shaped like a boot, connected to mainland Asia. There is another landmass to the east, "Terre de Iesso", a name normally given to Hokkaido. An inscription between the two records the journey of Maarten de Vries, with his supposed discovery "Staten Isle" in the middle.

Du Val's portrayal is based on Johannes Janssonrus' 1658 map of the area, a revised version of Janssonius' 1648 map which incorporated the discoveries of de Vries. It is unclear whether du Val thought "Terre de Iess"" was part of North America. The eastern shore of Asia borders on a large body of water identified as "Mer de Kaimachites", is possibly a corruption of Kamchatka.

The map reflects the extent of European missionary activity in Asia. The key at the lower left corner distinguishes between bishoprics, archbishoprics and ports.

Detain of du Val's map of Asia showing Hokkaido attached to the mainland as a large peninsula labeled "Yupi", which is separated by a small strait from another landmass labeled "Terre de Iesso".


REGNI
JAPONIÆ
NOVA MAPPA GEOGRAPHICA,
ex indigenarum observationibus
delineata
ab
ENGELBERTO KÆMPFERO
recusa et emendata
a
MATTH. SEUTTERO, S.C.Maj.
GEOGR. AUG. VIND.
JESSO ou
KAM
MER
D U
OKI
IDSUMO
TASIMA
TANGO

Lidai Fenye Tu Gujin Renwu Tuji (#484.2)

Signed and dated in the lower left: *Lu Junhan, Beijing*, dated: Kangxi, [康熙 18], the year of the mutton, Kangxi 18, 1679. The map contains more than two thousand annotations. Probably made in Kyūshū, Japan in the late 18th or first half of the 19th century. This manuscript map is in many ways unique and a complete study is not yet accomplished. The artist who made this grand scale manuscript map combined three different sources to create a map showing China, Korea and Kyūshū.

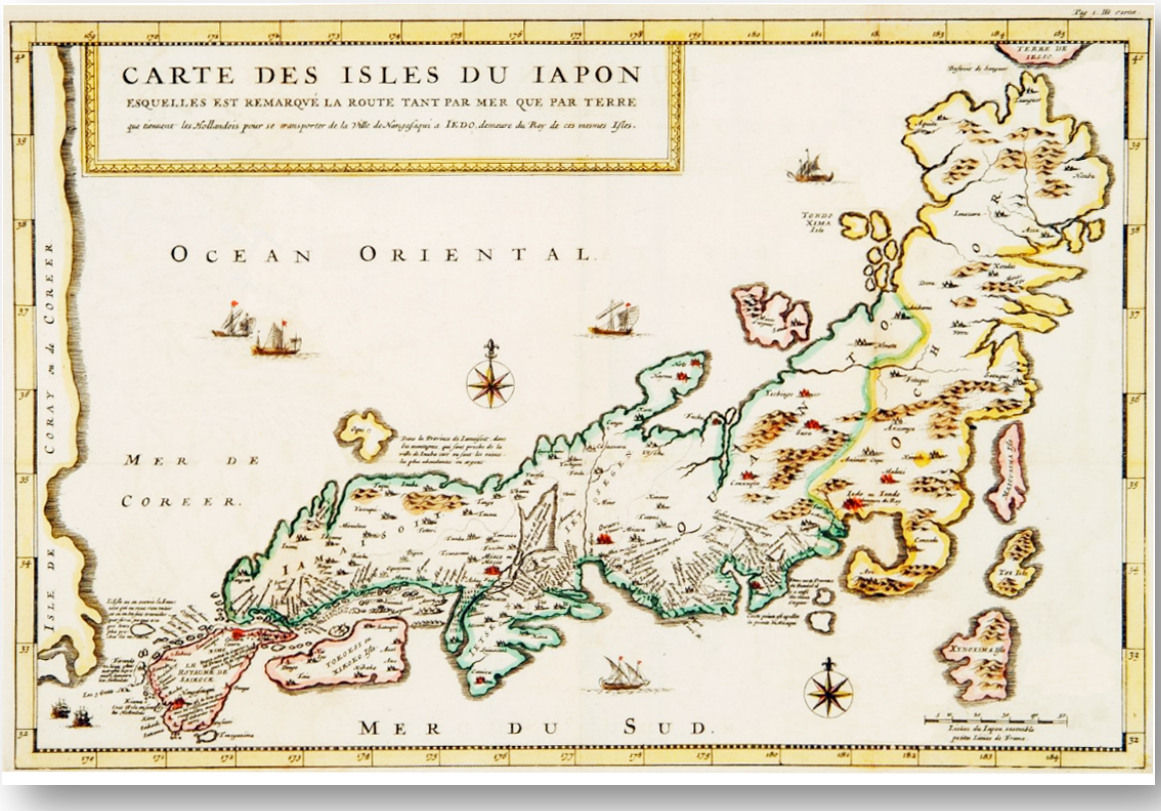
The artist provided a detailed island of Kyūshū, the southernmost large island of Japan. On maps made by the Chinese, Japan used to be rendered only as a circle with a name in it, or was completely eliminated. That was because Japan was not a tributary state of China. On the original map by Lu Junhan, Japan and other islands are not shown, but boxes with notes in Chinese as to their existence and location are noted. According to Prof. Wolfgang Michel, there were only a few high ranking Buddhist priest who fled China in the wake of the Ming defeat and were allowed to settle in Japan. It was easy to come to Nagasaki, stay there for a while and conduct trade. But entering the country was another thing. The Japanese portion shows Kyūshū with Iki, Tsushima in the North and Tanegashima, Yukushima in the South.

There should have been a few more southern islands that were annexed by the Satsuma clan in 1609, but in some cases Japanese mapmakers too failed to do so. The explanation about Japan is written from a Chinese perspective. According to the last line of the text (left hand side below) the author seems to be once again Lu Shi-an in Beijing. At the end of the text on Kyūshū we find a hint that the Kyūshū map was part of a greater Japan map. The Kyūshū map is of Japanese origin, indeed. There are several names or parts of names written in Katakana syllables. The name of the Nagoya castle (a castle built by Hideyoshi for the invasion of Korea) is completely given in Katakana and marked with a triangle. The model might be an early Edo map or even go back to the era shortly before Ieyasu came to power. Chikuzen, shows Akizuki as a central place marked with a read square, whereas Fukuoka, is only given with its name. In the 17th century it should be the other way round. Considering the situation during the latter half of the 17th century there were a lot of restrictions in place in Japan, Korea and China.

In 1543 Portuguese traders were the first to land in Japan, on Tanegashima. Six years later the Jesuit missionary Francis Xavier landed in Kagoshima. Between 1549 and the 1630s various foreigners landed at various ports in Japan. However Nagasaki was the only place in Japan that was open to foreigners (Portuguese, Chinese and later the Dutch) during nearly 300 years of isolation between the early-1600s and the late-1800s. Used first by the Portuguese, beginning in 1571, and later by the Dutch, Nagasaki was the arrival point for Christianity, Christian culture and Western technologies like shipbuilding, mining, printing, photography, medicine and railway transportation.

After 1639 all Westerners were expelled except the Dutch belonging to the VOC. From 1641 on they were confined to Dejima, an artificial island 120 by 75 meters, built in 1634 and linked to the mainland by a small bridge, guarded on both sides, and with a gate on the Dutch side. One of its most famous inhabitants was Dr. Philipp Franz Balthasar von Siebold. 17th century Nagasaki was also an important Christian center. For a time was known as the "Small Rome in Japan."

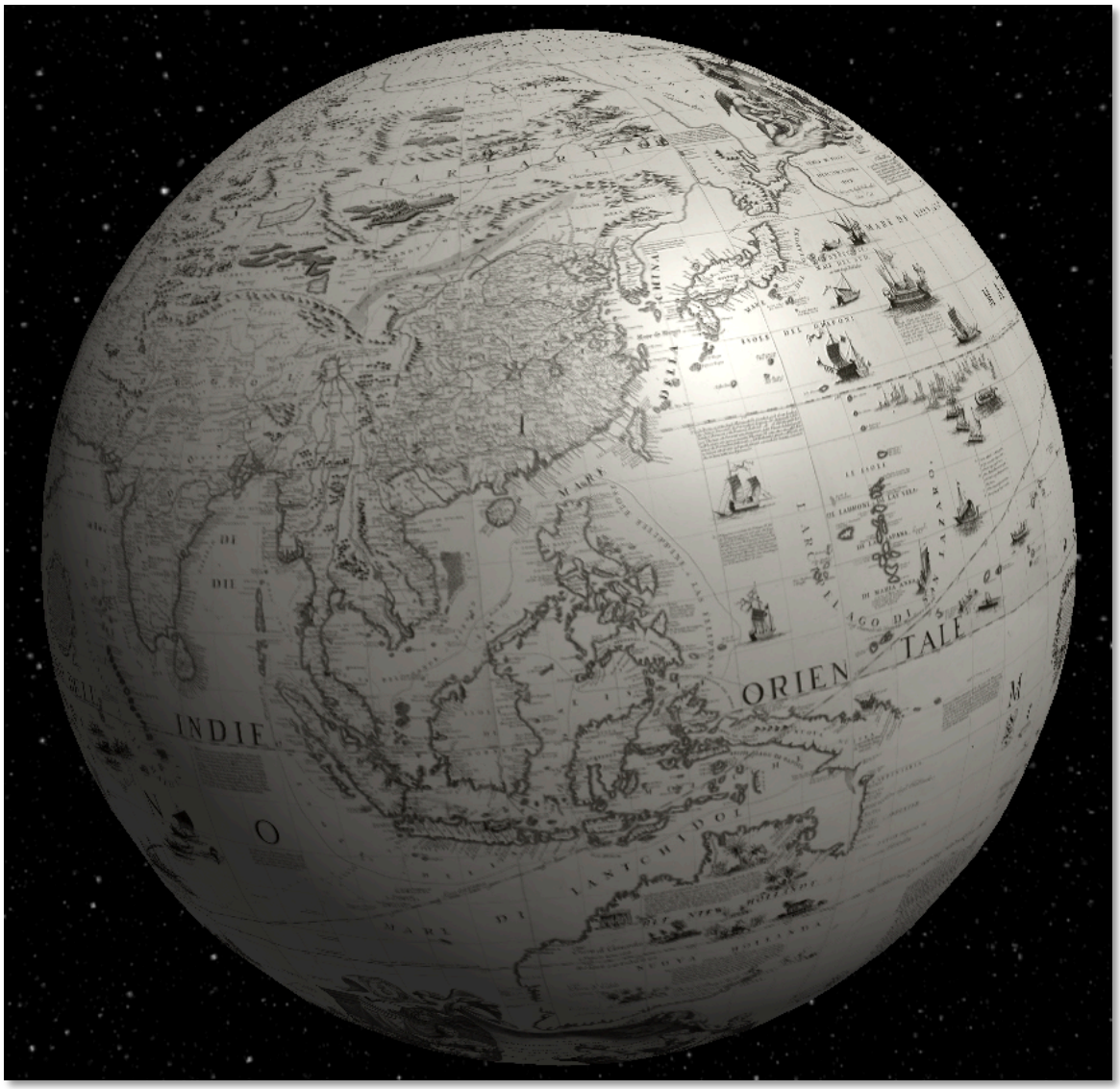
Deijima is no longer an island but it does contain a few old relics (a Dutch sundial and couple of European cannons) and has more old European-style building than anywhere else in Japan.



Jean Baptiste Tavernier's map: Carte des Isles du Japon Esquelles est remarque la Route, 1679
Though the rose compass orients the map to the north, Japan is shown as lying more west to east. Tavernier depicts many coastline cities and ports, and names the islands. Korea (Coray or Coreer) is described as an island, 'Isle de Koray ou de Coreer'.This map shows many unusual comments about Japan. Okasaki is said to have the most beautiful women. In Lake Biwa one can catch lots of salmon. Worthless youths are sent to an island off Kyushu, where they have to work etc.
Five large oriental frigates sail the 'Ocean Oriental' and two tiny European ships embellish the lower left hand corner.

Shinsen Dainihon Zukan [Revised Map of Japan]. Woodblock print, dated 1687, 69.1 X 92.5 cm, Kobe City Museum. The seal-like impressions, black with white lettering, identify each province by name. The names of the daimyo as well as their stipends in koku appear within the boundaries of their respective

Available separately, but also published in Coronelli's "Corso Geografico Unreersale" (1692-1694), and then subsequently in the "Epitome Cosmografica" (1693}, the 'Isolario Descrittione Geografico" (1696), and the second volume of the "Atlante Veneto" (1696). The map is dedicated to the Reverend Fontaine, a Jesuit and secretary to Pope Innocent Xl. It is drawn after the Blaeu-Martini cartographic model, although Coronelli also used Jesuit sources, as acknowledged by the Jesuit symbol in the title cartouche. There is a large vessel between the mainland and Honshu. The note next to it records that it is the ship used in the journey from Nagasaki to Osaka, which took 12 days.
Vincenzo Ceronelli (1650-1718) was an Italian cartographer and globe maker. (#488)



Vincenzo Maria Coronelli globe, 1688, #488

Ships off the coast of Japan from Vincenzo Coronelli's 1688 globe

The Guillaume Delisle maps of the first quarter of the 18th century were not precisely agencies of clarification. In the *Jaillot Atlas Franois* of 1695-1720, Delisle shows in his map *L' Asie,* of 1700, the *Terre de Yeco* as a peninsula of the Asiatic mainland, separated from *Niphon [Japan]* by an almost imperceptible water passage. In his *Carte des Indes et de la Chine* of 1705 *Terre d'Yeco ou d'Eso* is similarly drawn and beside it is a legend which reads "on ne scait si la Terre d'Yeco tient au Japon ou non" [we do not know is the land is Japan or not]. In his *Hemisphere Septentrional* of 1714 *Terre d'Yeco*, separated from the Asiatic coast by the strait called *Tessoi*, joins with *Niphon* to form a single large island. In his hemispheres of 1720 *Terre d'Yeco* is shown as a peninsular projection from the Asiatic continent while from this nonexistent peninsula Japan itself projects southward in peninsular form. All these different interpretations by this distinguished cartographer are found in the same atlas. Upon all of them appear the *Terre de la Compagnie*, the *Isle des Etats*, and, where the bounds of the map permit, an indication of *Gama Land.* Delisle made no bones of the fact that he was guessing in his delineations of Japan and *Yezo*. He admits in his *Lettre ... sur la question, si le Japan est une Ile*, that his conjectures have no positive foundation.

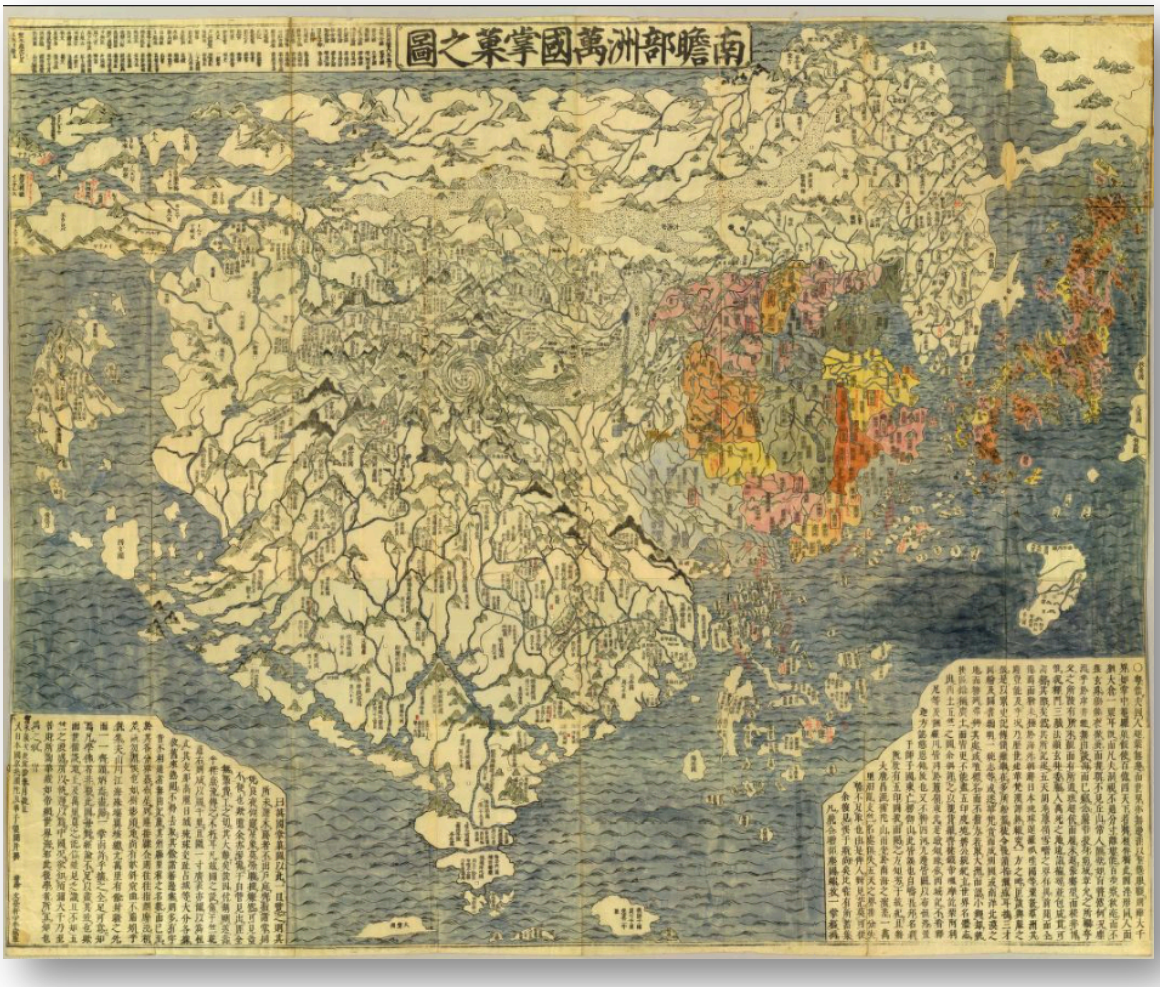
With the *Strait of Anian* still a conjectural feature of the geography of the northern Pacific, with most maps showing a land mass under one name or another stretching from Japan eastward to North America, with uncertainty as to whether *Yezo* was an island, a peninsula from the Asiatic coast north of Japan, or the Asiatic mainland itself, and with a great gulf indenting the northwestern coast of America and providing a passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic, the state of knowledge of the northern Pacific was little more advanced in 1725 than it had been a century earlier.

Detail from Guillaume de Lisle's L'Asie, 1700

De Eilanden van Japan. Door Sanson d'Abbeville, Geogr. du Roy, 1705
Map of Japan including Korea shown as an island and the fictitious Land of Jesso directly to the north of Japan, Includes settlements picked out in gold and scales. Relief shown pictorially,

Detail of Japan on the world map entitled the Kunyu wanguo quantu, 1708 from an original by Matteo Ricci. Hokkaido is labeled as "Sado"

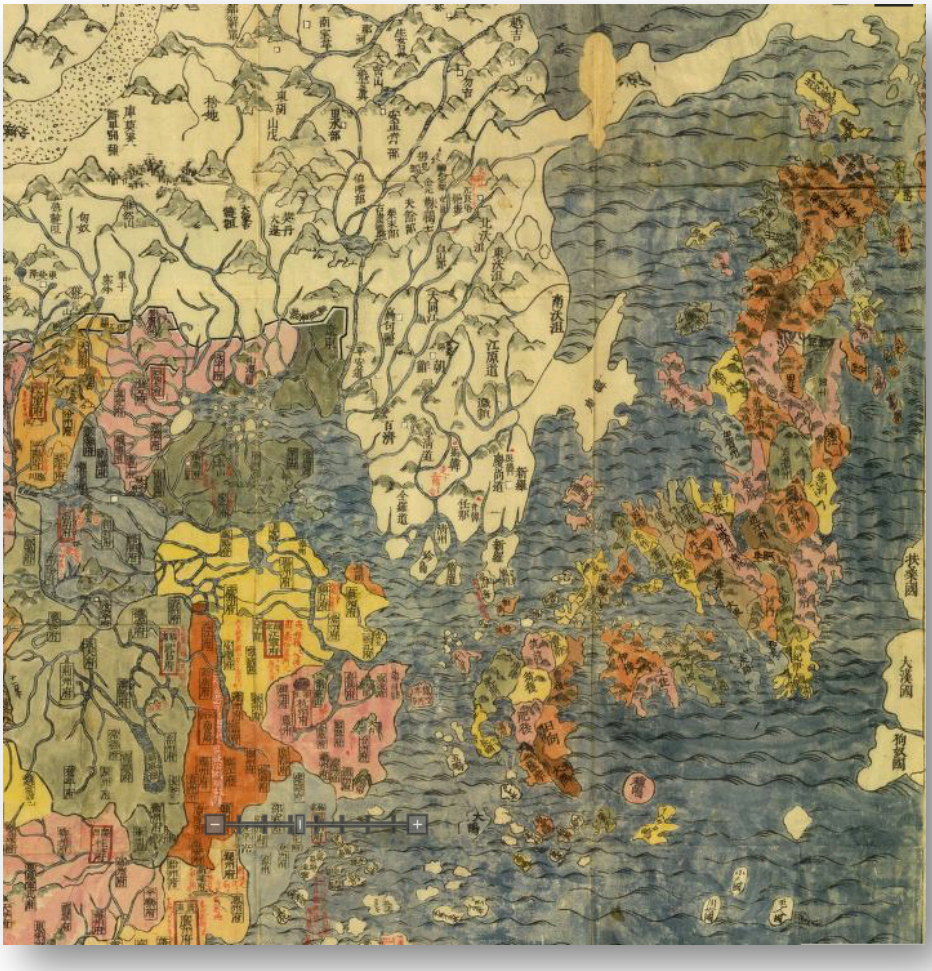
The following is a translation of Matteo Ricci's note concerning Japan:
Japan is a big island in the middle of the sea, whose length extends 3,200 li though its width is only 600 li. It now consists of sixty-six prefectures. Each prefecture has its ruler, and its people worship strength. Even though a king exists, power is always in the hands of powerful subjects. There are many who practice martial skills, but the number of those who study the arts and literature is limited. As for indigenous products, there are silver, iron and black pepper. The king hands over his throne to his son when the latter becomes thirty years old. While they do not care much about jewelry, the Japanese hold dear gold, silver and pottery.



Nansenbushu Bankoku Shoka No Zu [Outline Map of All Countries of the Universe]
1710 (see monograph #510)

On the Nansenbushu, south of Jambu-Dvipa, India is recognizable for in its peninsular form. Japan itself appears as a series of islands in the upper right and, like India, is one of the few recognizable elements - at least from a cartographic perspective. China and Korea appear to the west of Japan and are vaguely identifiable geographically, which itself represents a significant advancement over the Gotenjikuzu map. On the lower right of the map South America is featured as an island south of Japan with a small peninsula as part of Central America, carrying among just a few place-names including four Chinese characters whose phonetical Japanese reading is "A-ME-RI-KA". Of special note is Rokashi Hotan's mapping of the Americas. Prior to this map America had rarely if ever been depicted on Japanese maps, so Rokashi Hotan turned to the 1645 Chinese map Daimin Kyuhen Zu [Map of China under the Ming Dynasty and its surrounding Countries] (#231), from which he copied both the small island-like form of South America, and the curious land bridge (the Aelutian Islands?) connecting Asia to what the Japanese historians Nobuo Muroga and Kazutaka Unno conclude "must undoubtedly be a reflection of North America". Whether this represents ancient knowledge from early Chinese navigations in this region, for which there is some literary if not historical evidence, or merely a printing error, we can only speculate.

While this map represents a significant step forward in the Japanese attempt to combine religious and contemporary geographic knowledge it remains in essence a Buddhist map. It is likely that Rokashi Hotan was aware of important European style maps circulating in China at the time. The 1602 *Kunyu Wanguo Quantu* [A Map of the Myriad Countries of the World] by the Jesuit Matteo Ricci *(#441)* is one such example and copies were known to have reached Japan in the 17th century. It is curious that Rokashi Hotan chose to ignore it and other Eurocentric data in exchange for a religious world-view, while at the same time attempting to reconcile Buddhist and modern geography. It should be noted that at the time of its production, Japan maintained an isolationist policy that began in 1603 with the Edo period under the military ruler Tokugawa Ieyasu, and lasting for nearly 270 years. The confused cosmological view upon which his map is based, referencing at once religious, secular, and non-Buddhist teachings, matched the growing religio-secular conflict that would emerge in Japan during the coming centuries. Ultimately this is one of the most important, beautiful, and influential printed maps ever to emerge in Japan.

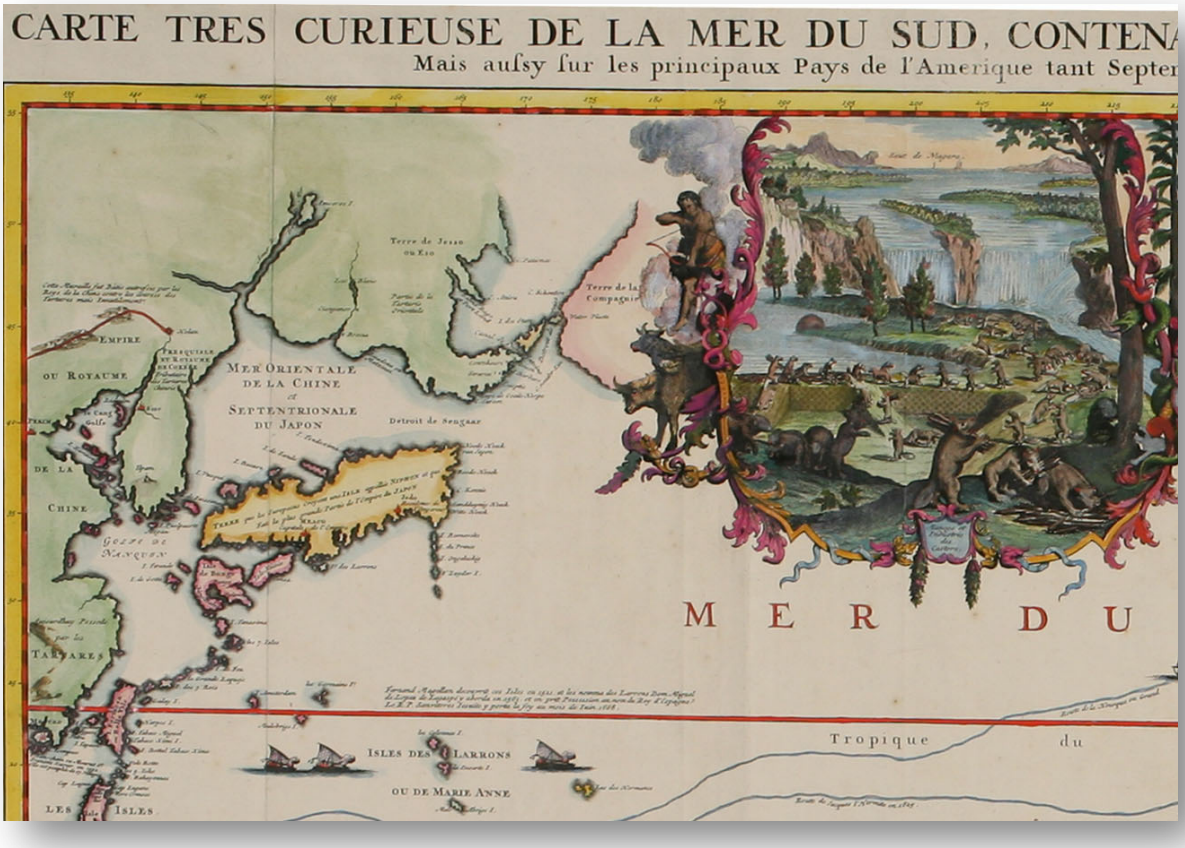


Detail: Japan on the Nansenbushu Bankoku Shoka No Zu

Map of the Ryukyus in the "Ch'onha chi do": hand-copied in color; early 18th century; 36.5 x 30 cm; in the collection of the Museum of Yeongnam University. The main island is rendered in a loose triangle. The architectural shapes of structures, including those of pavilions, gates, and fortress walls, are realistically depicted. This map derives from a work by Zheng Ruozeng, a renowned geographer and official in the late Ming dynasty. Zheng Ruozeng, who had made great contributions in suppressing Japanese marauders on the Chinese coast, compiled a number of books on national defense and geography including the "Chouhai tubian", a

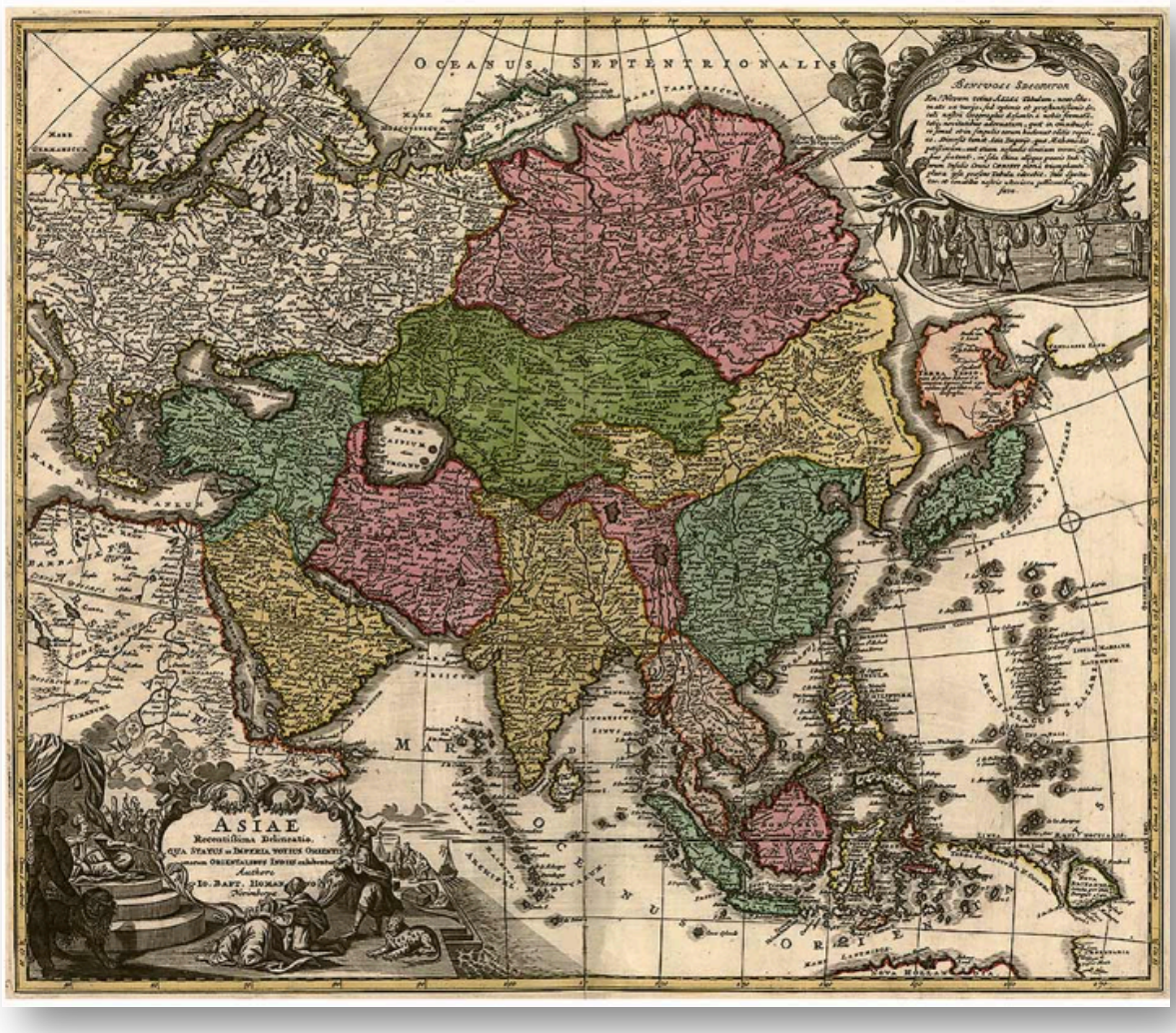
compilation of maps related to navigation and naval warfare. The map of the Ryukyus included in the "Chouhai tubian" reappears in the 1561 edition of Luo Hongxian's "Guang yutu" [Enlarged Terrestrial Atlas] #227 and in the "Sancai tuhui" [Assembled Illustrations of the Three Realms of Heaven, Earth, and Man] in 1609. The map of the Ryukyus in the "Chbnha chido" [Map of All Under Heaven] is a copy of Zheng Ruozeng's but with additional explanatory notes in the spaces at both top and bottom about the local customs and social system of the Ryukyus. On top of the "Ch'onha chido" is written the following brief discourse by Yi Sugwang:

"The Ryukyus are located in the middle of the Southeast Sea, and it takes seven days to reach Fujian. The royal quarters are simple, and the tax system is similar to the "jingtianzhi" [the idealized "well-field system" attributed to ancient China]. Taxation is administered justly regardless of rank, and the legal system is very strict. The people are brave and without disease. The arms they carry are sharp and strong, and they like fighting. There are no wild beasts in the mountains but there are many wild horses in the fields. I have heard that, on a day of fine weather, one can see the Ryukyus from Mt. Halla on our Cheju Island, since they are located far down in the south".



Japan on Henri Abraham Châtelain's map: Carte tres curieuse de la mer du sud, contenant des remarques nouvelles et tres utiles … Le tout pour l'intelligence Des Dissertations suivantes {Map of the South Sea, that demands great attention, containing new and most useful remarks … All for the comprehension of the following dissertations} (Amsterdam, 1719) #511

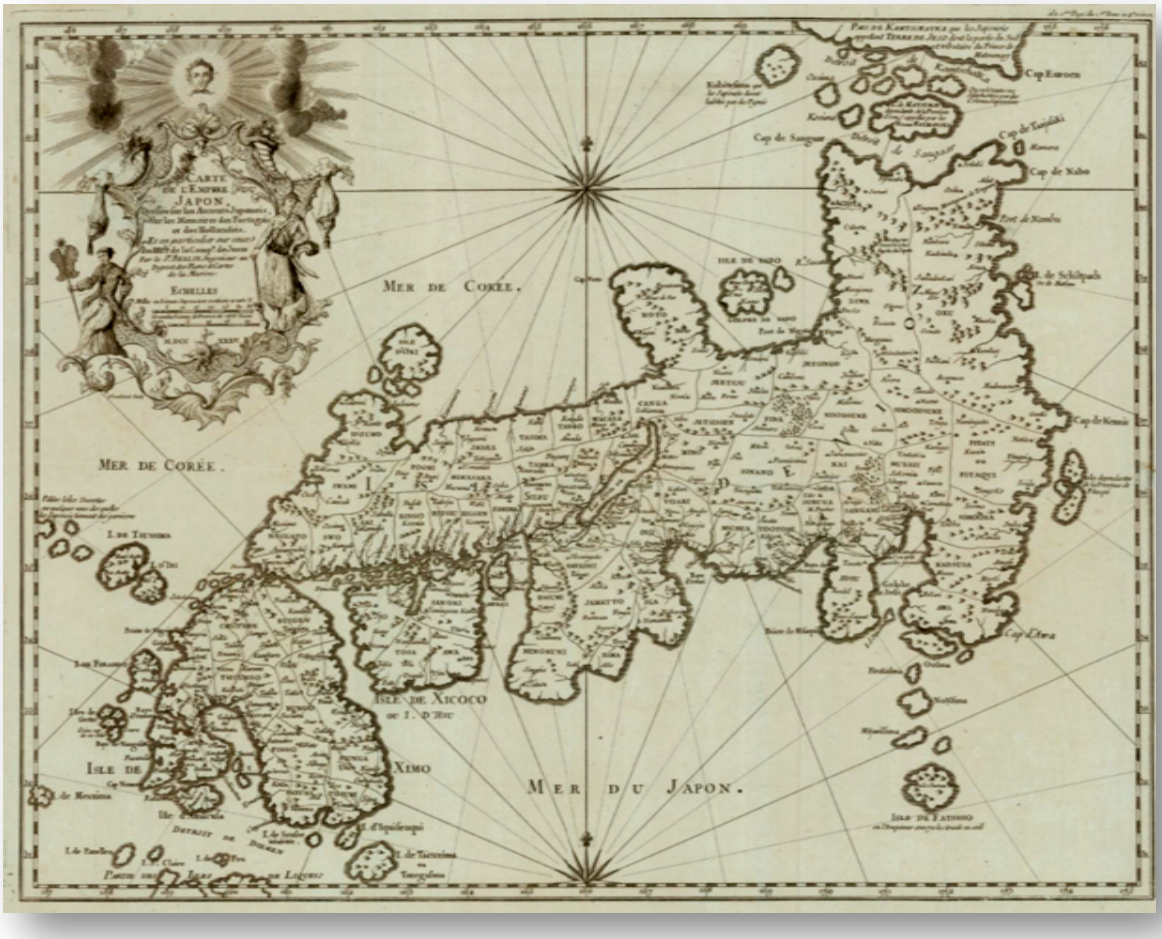
L'Empire du Japon Tiré des Cartes des Japponois, 1719
Henri Chatelain's edition of Adrien Reland's important map of Japan 1715, including the place-names in phonetic Dutch. Reland's map of Japan represents a radical departure from prior European maps of Japan, and is the first map printed in Japan to use Sino-Japanese characters. Instead of using the existing European geographical sources of Japan, Reland utilized Japanese maps, most notably a map from the library of Benjamin Dutry (1668-1751), a former director of the Dutch VOC. This was a tremendous leap forward in the geographical depiction of Japan, such as in the treatment of Kyushu Island and in naming the 66 provinces. Large inset of the area around Nagasaki and an ornate dedication cartouche, with about twenty coats of arms.



Johann Baptist Homann's ma entitled: Asiae recentissima delineatio, qua status et imperia totius orientis unacum orientalibus indiis exhibentur, ca, 1710
Homann shows "Terra Yedso" as an island adjoining Honshu by a narrow isthmus with an inscription noting that Hendrick Scherer has shown the areas the same was in his atlas.


TERRA IEDSO
MARE IAPONICUM ORIENTALE

This map of Japan is from Katip Celebi's 1732 geographic dictionary, Kitab-I cihannuma [Mirror of the World]. Celebi' translated Gerardus Mercator's Atlas Minor into Ottoman Turkish in 1653-1655



De Charlevoix (1682-1761) was a French Jesuit missionary and explorer. On his first journey he spent four years in Canada, and his knowledge of the area led the French government to commission him to search for a river routes to the Pacific Ocean in 1720. He explored the Great Lakes and part of the Mississippi, but was shipwrecked near the Bahamas and returned to France. De Charlevoix was a director of the academic journal "Journal de trevoux", and in that position initiated a series of histories of non-European countries. This history of the church -- Japan was the first installment.

The "Histoire du japon" was first published in 1736 and republished 1754 by several French publishers. De Charlevoix's work contains maps by Jacques Nicolas Bellin, (1702-1772) who was the pre-eminent French hydrographer of his day, overseeing the creation of the Depot des cartes et plans die la marine in 1720. Bellins map drew on the 1729 work of Engelbert Kaempfer but does not mention him as a source, whereas Jesuit missionaries are named alongside anonymous Japanese, Portuguese and Dutch sources: possibly a nod to de Charlevoix's background.

The six small islands north of "I. de Matsumay" and the southern tip of "Pays de Kamtschatka" have been erased. Bellin included an essay, "Observations sur la Carte des Isles du Japon, Terre de Yesso", in which he explains his revisions. He had mistakenly believed Kamchatka and Yesso [Hokkaido] to be the same.

Reland's map of Japan represents a radical departure from prior European maps of Japan and is the first map printed in Japan to use Sino-Japanese characters. Instead of following prior European maps and geographical sources, Reland utilized Japanese maps, most notably a map from the library or Benjamin Dutry, a former director of the Dutch VOC (East India Company). In some respects, this represented a tremendous leap forward in the geographical depiction of Japan, such as in the treatment of Kyushu and in naming the 66 provinces. The map first appeared in 1715 in volume 3 of Jean Frederic Benard's Recuiel de voiages. Chatelain copied Reland's map in 1719 for his Atlas Historique, although there are a few translation errors from the original. It was thereafter reissued by Reland and Wilehm Broedelet in a larger format in 1715, for inclusion in folio atlases. The plates from the enlarged edition were purchased by Joachim Ottens in about 1720 and thereafter reissued under his name and later the names of his sons, Josua and Reiner. Large inset of the area around Nagasaki and an ornate dedication cartouche, with about 20 coats of arms.

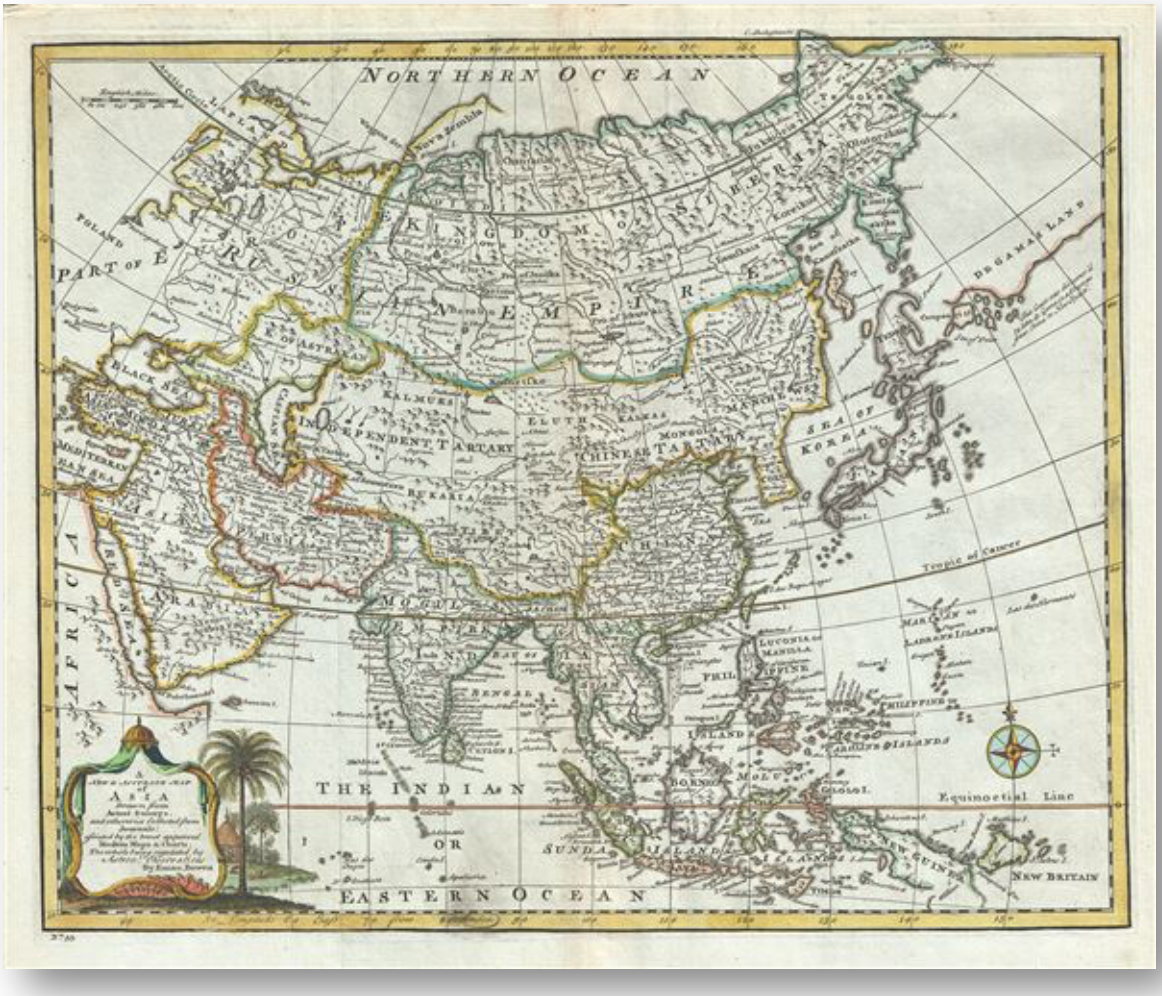

L'EMPIRE DU JAPON, TIRÉ DES CARTES DES JAPONNOIS.
NIPPON
JAPON
KIOF
SIOF
SIKOKU
MARIS JAPONICI PARS
LIQUEO
Vue de la Ville de NANGASACKI et de l'Ile
PARTIE DE
L'ILE

Imperium Japonicum Per Regiones Digestum Sex et Sexaginta Atque Ipsorum Japonensium Mappis Descriptum Ab Hadriano Relando [with Provincial Names in Japanese Characters], 1740, 24x18.5 inches

Reland's map of Japan was the first map to use Sino-Japanese characters on a European printed map and represents a radical departure from prior European maps of Japan. Instead of following prior European maps and geographical sources, Reland utilized Japanese maps, most notably a map from the library or Benjamin Dutry, a former director of the Dutch VOC (East India Company). In some respects, this represented a tremendous leap forward in the geographical depiction of Japan, such as in the treatment of Kyushu and in naming the 66 provinces. The map first appeared in 1715 in volume 3 of Jean Frederic Benard's Recuiel de voiages. It was thereafter reissued by Reland and Wilehm Broedelet in a larger format in 1715, for inclusion in folio atlases. The plates from the enlarged edition were purchased by Joachim Ottens in about 1720 and thereafter reissued under his name and later the names of his sons, Josua and Reiner. Large inset of the area around Nagasaki and an ornate dedication cartouche, with about 20 coats of arms.

A copy of the first edition in English, of Engelbert Kaempfer's "History of Japan". Engelbert Kaempfer (1651-1713) was a German naturalist and physician employed by the Dutch East India Company (VOC), travelling an their behalf to Java in 1688. He spent six months there and then carried on to Japan, where he lived until October 1692, accompanying the head of the VOC on two missions to the imperial court at Edo, He returned to Germany and published a book describing Japanese flora and fauna, but died before finding a publisher for his general work on the country. Sir Hans Sloane, English scientist and head of the Royal Society, acquired Kaempfer's estate and commissioned a translation of the work by Johann Gaspar Scheuchzer, The first edition appeared in English in 1727 and the French language version was produced almost immediately after, retaining the same maps as in the first. The inset at the lower left shows the rosaries of various Buddhist sects, and the gods of good luck – Ebisu holding a tai [sea bream] – decorate the lower border. Insets at the upper right are details of the northern territories.

The works contain a map of Japan and two city plans of Nagasaki and Edo (Tokyo). The map of Japan was produced by Johann Georg Scheuchzer from Kaempfer's work. He includes two insets of the island of Kamchatka and a detail of the straits of Tsugaru. The latter is attributed to an anonymous Japanese work, which is the original Japanese source map copied by Kaempfer. The outline of the main island of Honshu is less square than in previous charts. There is a dedication to Hans Sloane at the lower edge, acknowledging his role in preserving the work, surrounded by stylized figures of Japanese men.



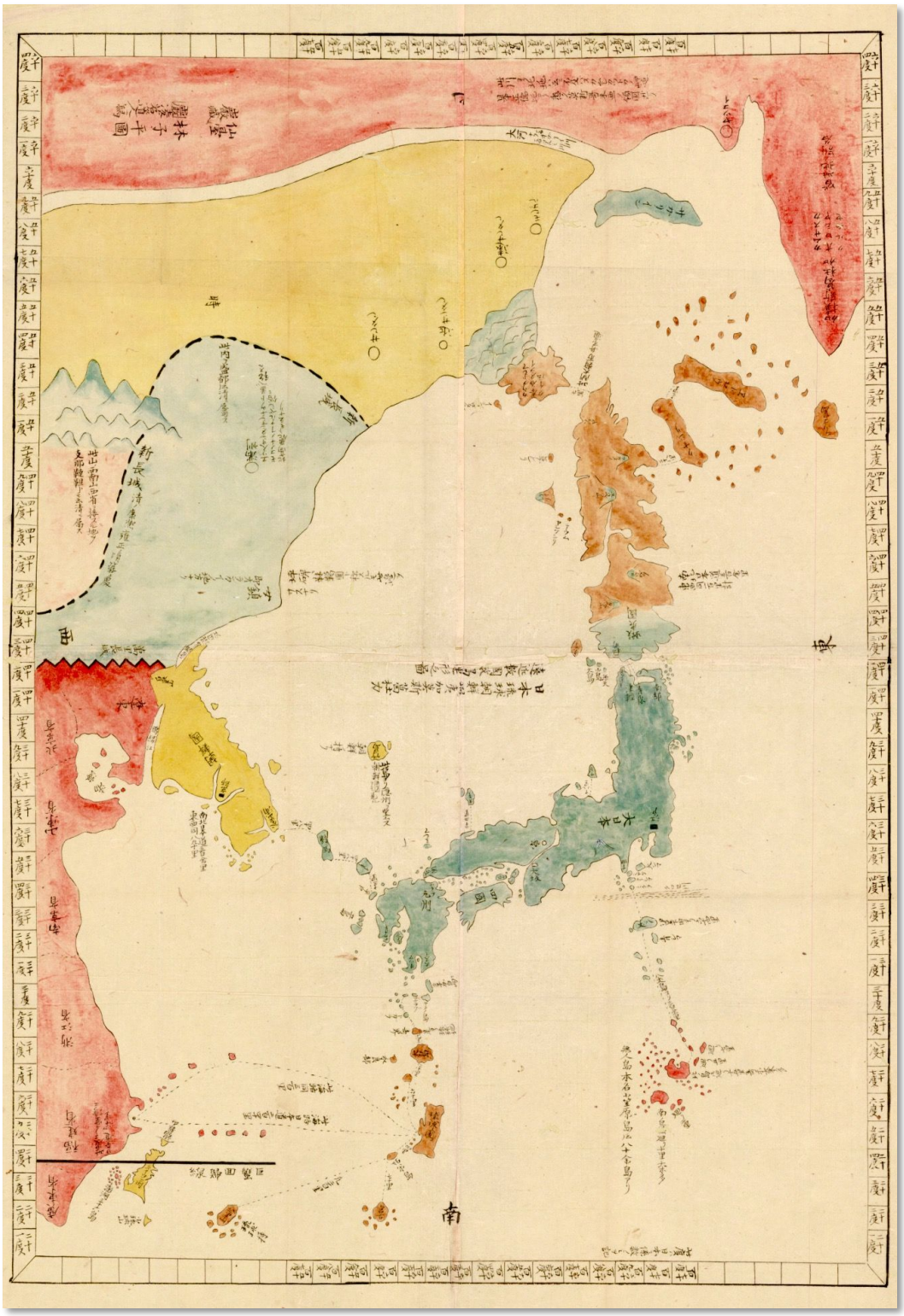
1747 New and Accurate Map of Asia by the English cartographer Emmanuel Bowen. This map covers the entire continent from Africa and the Mediterranean east to the Bering Sea and south as far as Java and New Guinea. The map renders the entire region in extraordinary detail offering both topographical and political information with forests and mountains beautifully rendered in profile. Bowen's presentation is most interesting in its rendering of the largely unexplored extreme northeast of Asia. Knowledge of this area was, at the time, speculative at best. Hokkaido, or as it is mapped here, Eso or Yesso, is joined to Sakhalin, reflecting a common misunderstanding about this region that persisted until the late 18th century. Just to the east of Yesdo [Hokkaido], Bowen maps the apocryphal De Gama's Land and Company's Land with a note reading 'This coast was discovered by John de Gama in a voyage from China to New Spain.' Often called Terre de Gama or Terre de la Company, these islands were supposedly discovered in the 17th century by a mysterious Spanish navigator known as Jean de Gama. Various subsequent navigators claim to have seen this land, including Maerten de Vries and Cornelis Jansz Coen, but it was left to Bering to finally debunk the myth. In 1729, he sailed for three days looking for Juan de Gama land but never found it. Thought it may be little more than a mis-mapping of Hokkaido or the Japanese Kuriles, Gama or Compagnie remained on maps for about 50 years following Bering's voyages until the explorations of Cook confirmed the Bering findings. The mapping of Hokkaido (here identified as Yesdo) joined to Sakhalin refers to cartography of Maerten de Vries and Cornelis

Jansz Coen, who explored this land in 1643 in search of the gold and silver rich islands mentioned in a Spanish legend. Vries and Coen were the first Europeans to enter these waters, which were in fact little known even to the Japanese. They mapped the Strait of Vries, identified here. They believed this strait to separate Asia from America, which Compagnies Land formed part of, thus elucidating its magnificent proportions. They were also the first European navigators to discover Sakhalin and map its southern coastline. Apparently the Castricum was mired in a heavy fog as it attempted to explore these seas and thus Vries and Coen failed to notice the strait separating Edo (Hokkaido) from Sakhalin, initiating a cartographic error that would persist well into the 18th century. Despite their many successes, the expedition ultimately failed to discover islands of silver and gold, thus proving definitively to Van Diemen that indeed, no such lands ever existed. In Japan the Noto peninsula is pointing the wrong way and Honshu is oversized to the south; Korea or Corea is present, if misshapen, in roughly the correct location. The sea between Japan and Korea, whose name, the 'Sea of Korea,' 'East Sea,' or the 'Sea of Japan,' is here identified in favor of Korea (Sea of Korea). Historically, Korea has used the term 'East Sea' since 59 B.C., and many books published before the Japanese annexed Korea make references to the 'East Sea' or 'Sea of Korea.' Over time, neighboring and western countries have identified Korea's East Sea using various different terms. The St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences referred to the East Sea as 'Koreiskoe Mope' or 'Sea of Korea' in their 1745 map of Asia. Other 17th and 18th century Russian maps alternate between 'Sea of Korea' and 'Eastern Ocean.' The 18th century Russian and French explorers Adam Johan von Krusenstern and La Perouse called it the 'Sea of Japan,' a term that became popular worldwide. The name is currently still a matter of historical and political dispute between the countries.

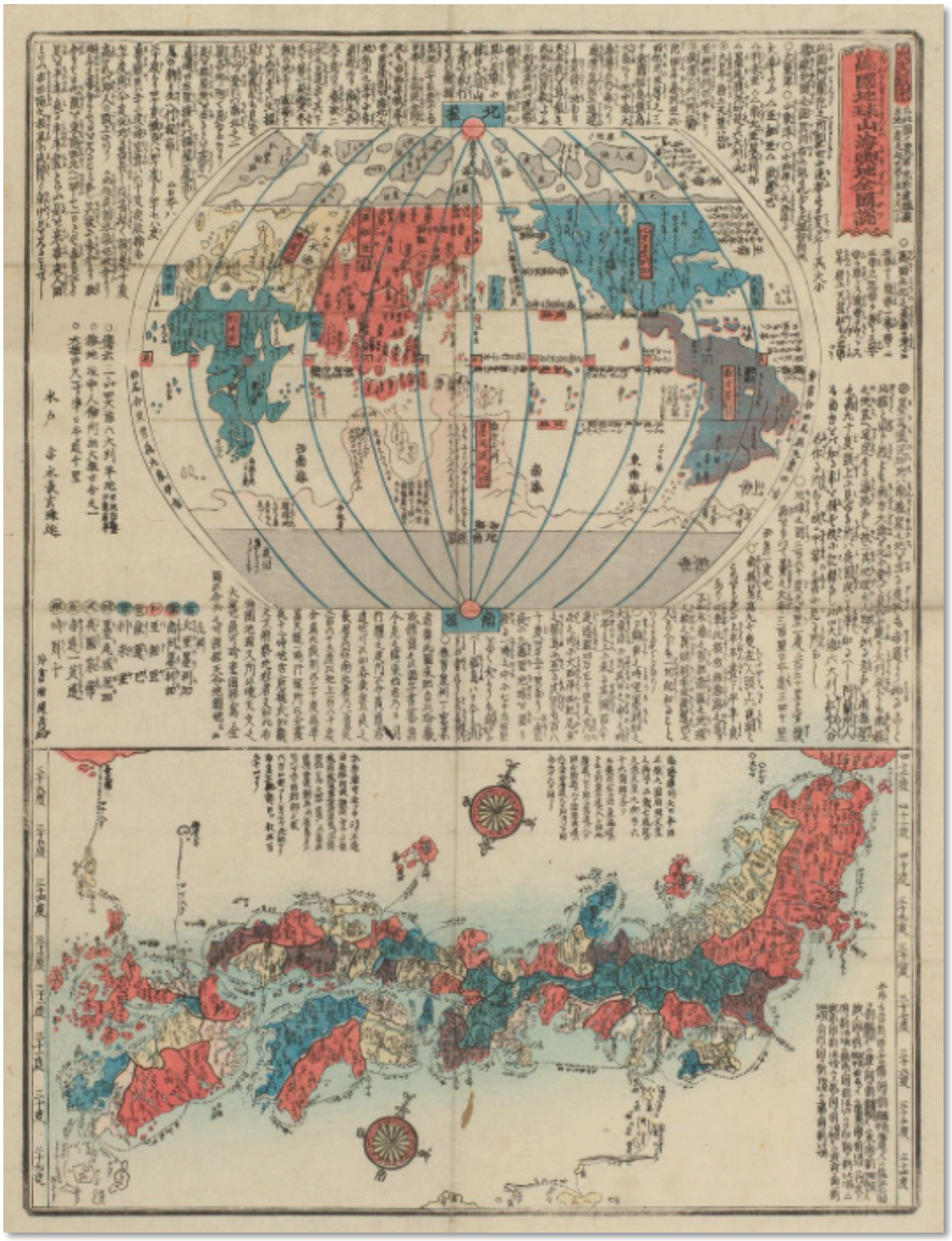
Sea
Kamtſzatka
Lamſkaia
Olekminskoi
Oklukoe
Ayma
Udskoi Ost.
R
E
Say
Puronaay
C. Patience
D E G
Compan ys Ld.
Str. of Uries
Yaksa
Chinese Guard
Siskuya
Ukchi
Saghalian Ula
Saghalian Ula
Merahen
Tsitsikar
Chulgha
Wantin
Hinka L.
Payur L.
Chol
Petuna
M A N C H E W S
Kirin Ula
Chahan
Paran
Sira Muran
Shin-yang
MONGOLS
TARTARY
Mapu
K. OF
COREA
Kingki-tao
Mochong
Ki-chang
Pe-king
Tay-gwen
THE
Tenchew
YELLOW
SEA
Twi-ta I.
Nangasak
Ximo I.
Xicco
Medvechu I.
YEDSO
Aguiya
Tocoptie
C. Eroen
Matsima I.
SEA OF KOREA
Nivala
Noto
Aquita
Voxu
Yedo
JAPAN
Meaco
Saruga
Ovam
Saua
Tomo
Cunzula
South I.

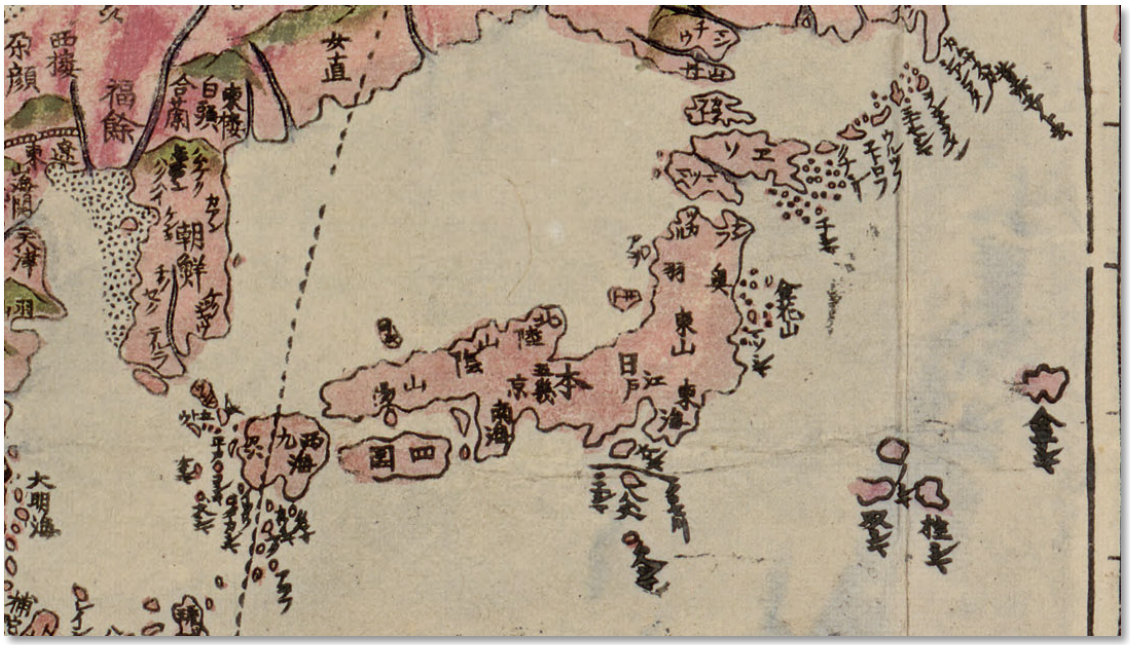
"Asia Cum omnibus Imperiis Provinciis Statibus et Insulis...," Matthaeus Seutter, , 1783

In this 1783 map by Seutter the area to the north of Iaponia is still speculative. A note on "Yedso" records the ongoing controversy over whether it is a peninsula or not, here it is shown attached to Honshu. There is no Kamchatka peninsula. The mythical "Compagnie Land" is shown with a note next to it recording that it is the land first supposed sighted in the area by the Portuguese explorer João da Gama.



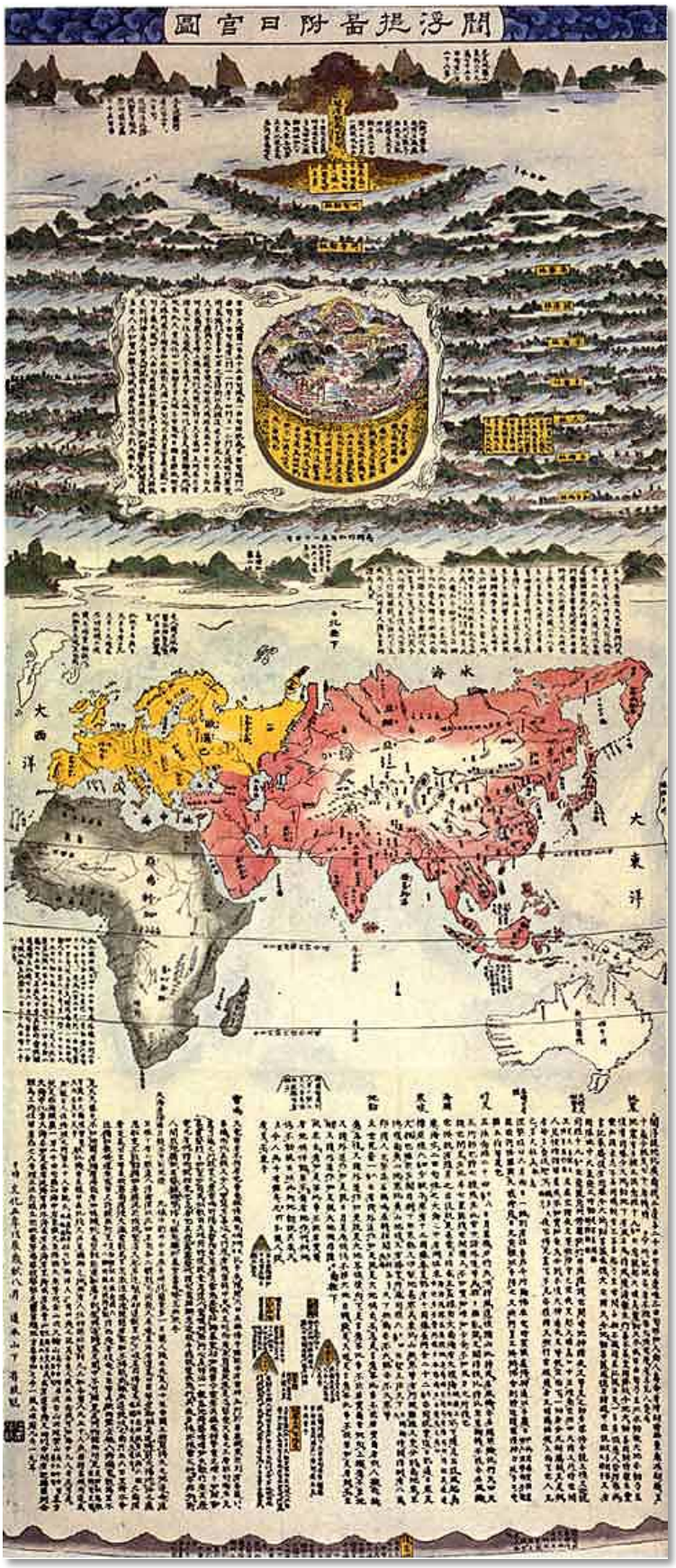
1800 Japanese map: Illustrated general route map of three countries (Japan, Korea, Russia). Hayashi, Shlhei, 1738-1793,

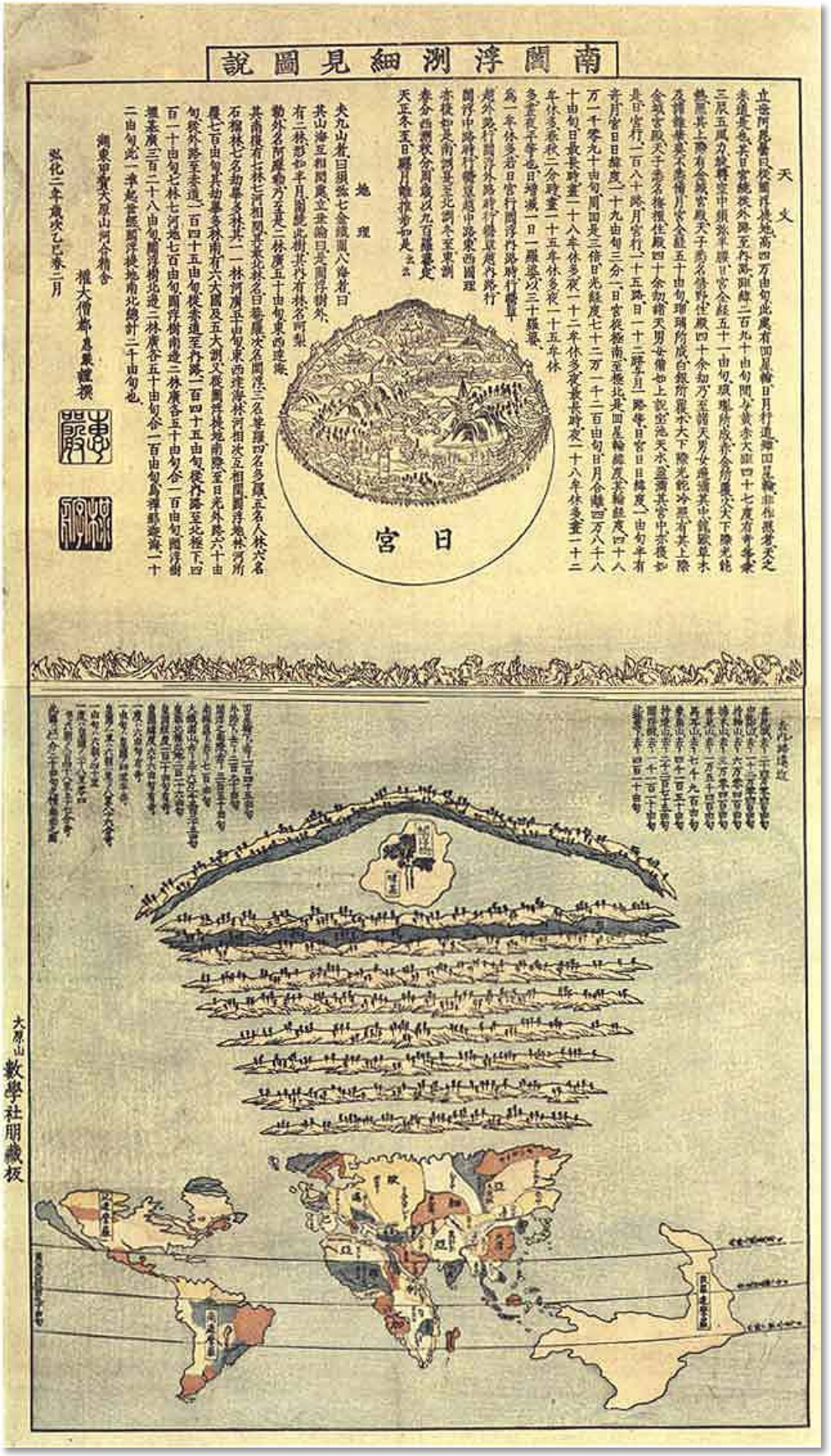


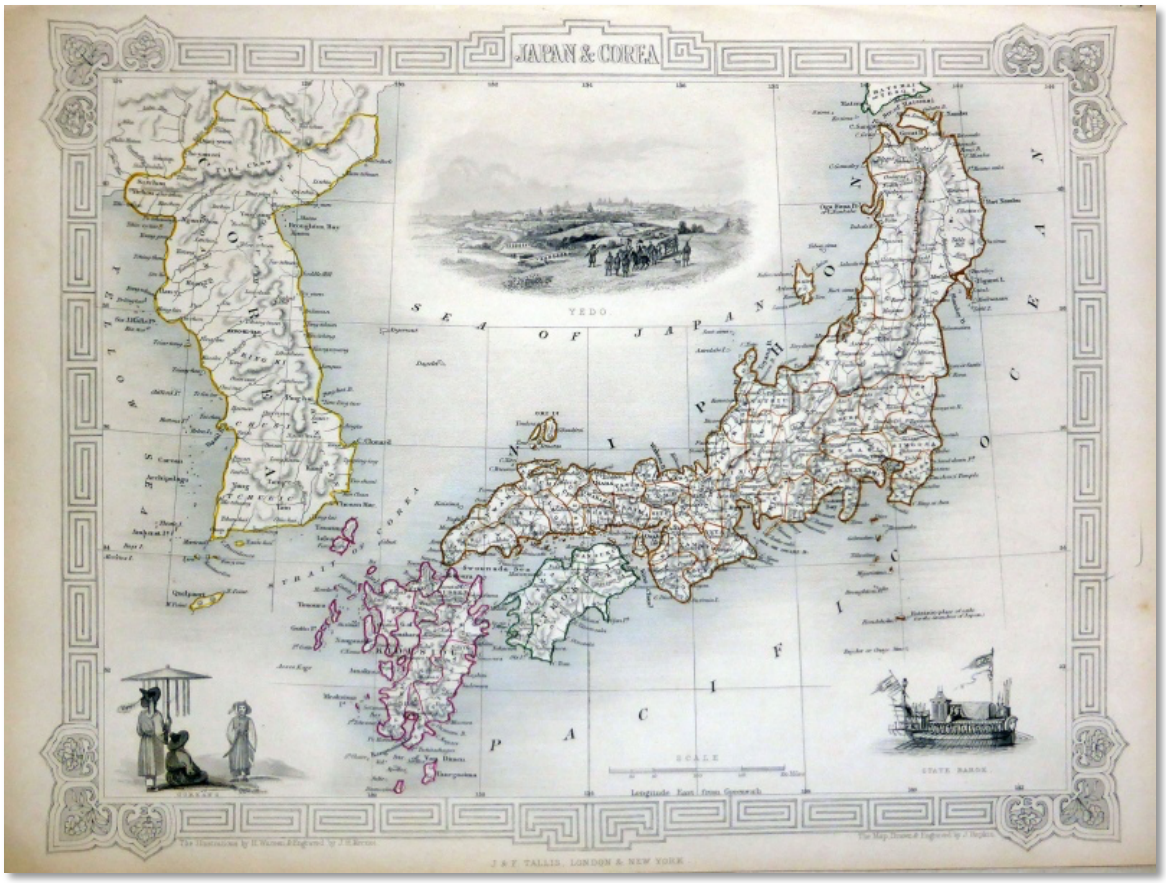


Japan on an 18th century Japanese world map

Japan on a 19th century Japanese world map


閻浮提畨附日宮圖
大西洋
大東洋


南鬮浮渕細見圖說
天文
地理
日宮
大原山數學社開藏板



Japan & Corea, 1851. By John Tallis/J. Rapkin

Published in John Tallis' "Illustrated Atlas" (London & New York: J. Tallis & co, c.1851). The" Illustrated Atlas", published from 1849 to 1853, was the last decorative world atlas. The "Japan & Corea" map was typical of the many fine ones that appeared in this work with its decorative border and attractive vignettes. Illustrated are views of the City of Yedo [Tokyo], a Japanese state barge and Koreans in their national costume.

Like all of my monographs, the maps selected are based primarily on their aesthetic appeal. Like the early maps of the world, Africa, Asia, the Western Hemisphere, etc. the early European maps of Japan were based upon extremely limited information because of the physical and intentional isolation of the islands. Much artistry and imagination was employed at each stage to try to bring these islands into focus for the western world. Obviously, the Japanese themselves had produced much more realistic, accurate maps of their homeland during this period. But their desire for isolation and the remote location of their land made development of maps by "outsiders" very problematic. As a result, the maps produced, beginning in the 15th century, by Europeans took on a fascinating, exotic quality for over four centuries.


LES ISLES DU IAPON.
Par le Sr. Sanson d'Abbeville, Geo. du Roy
Auec privilege pour vingt ans
1652
Septentrion
Midy
Occident
Orient
OCEAN
OCEAN ou MER DE CHINE.
ORIENTAL.
ISLE DE COREY.
CHINE.
LA CHINE.
IS. DES LARRONS
TERRE DE IESSO, ou YEDZO, ou SESSO.
Destroit de Sangaar
Matzumay
IAPON
NIPHON
Saycock ou Ximo
Tokoesi
Eschelle
Mille Pas Geometriques
Lieues communes de France
Lieues d'une Heure chacune
Peyrounin sculp.
les Sept Isles

Japan on the 1850 Kinko's Japanese world map, with Mount Fuji

Relevant Monographs in this website

Late Medieval:
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#259 The Laon Globe, 1493
Renaissance:
#308 *World Map*, Giovanni Matteo Contarini & Francesco Roselli, 1506
#310 Martin Waldseemüller's World Map, 1507
#313 Johannes Ruysch World Map, 1507-08
#314 The Lenox Globe 1503-07
#318 Benard Sylvanus World Map, 1511
#319 *Hemisphere Maps*, Johannes de Stobnicza, 1512
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#328 Globes, Johann Schöner, 1515, 1520, 1523
#329 *Ingolstadt/Nordenskiöld* Globe Gores, 1508
#332.3 Lorenz Fries map of China, 1522
#342.1 *Green (Quirini) Globe*, 1515-28
#343 *World Map in Bordone's Isolario*, 1528
#344 *Noua et integri universi orbis descriptio [Paris Gilt or De Bure Globe]*, 1528
#378 *Pierre Descelier's Planisheres, a.k.a. The Dauphin Map*, 1546, 1550, 1553
#381 *Die Nüw Welt [The New Islands]*, Sebastian Münster, 1546
#391 Bolognini Zaltieri/Paolo Forlani, 1566
#409.1 *Universal Atlas*, Fernado Vaz Dourado, 1568-71
#410H *Chinae olim Sinarum regionis, nova descriptio*, Abraham Ortelius/Ludovico Georgio (Luis Jorge de Barbuda), 1584
#416 Joan Martines, *Portolan Atlas*, 1587
#436.1 *Linschoten's Asia*, Henricus Van Langren and Jan Huygen Van Linschoten, 1595
#441 Matteo Ricci's 1602 *Kunyu Wanguo Quantu* 坤輿萬國全圖
#444.1 Jodocus Hondius, *China*, 1606-34
#464 John Speed
#510 *Nansenbushu Bankoku Shoka No Zu* [Outline Map of All Countries of the Universe], Zuda Rokashi Hotan, 1710

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Pieter van der Aa, William Adams Reystogt na Oost Indien, 1707, 23 x 15 cm

Summary.
Unlike some other areas, the mapping of Japan began as an indigenous effort. The first-known mention of map-making in Japan is made in the Nihongi, in an imperial edict of A.D. 646, ordering the execution of local surveys for the use of central authority. In the succeeding century numerous estate and administrative maps were compiled.

Gyogi Bosatsu (670-749) is, according to tradition, the most venerable figure in Japanese cartography. He was a Buddhist priest of Korean descent who migrated to Japan in his youth. He is said to have travelled extensively in Japan and helped the country people in the construction of roads, canals and bridges. He is credited with the construction of a map of the entire country. The earliest-known extant map of Japan is, however, one in the possession of the Temple of Ninna ji, near Kyoto. This map is presumed to be of the *Gyogi* type, has the south at the top of the map, and dates from 1305. The *Gyogi* type retained its influence for eight centuries, and had an effect on Chinese and European maps. Towards the end of the 16th century Japanese scholars came into contact with European map-making, and in the first part of the 17th century this was reflected, by Japanese artists, in the execution of world maps, several of which, drawn on screens during this period, have survived. The isolation policy followed by the Government later led to a decline in geographical knowledge, and a forward move was not made until Ishikawa Toshiyuki (Ryusen), who flourished 1688-1713, and compiled general maps and town plans. Ryusen's maps, beautifully

executed - for he is said to have been a pupil of Moronobu - were nevertheless inferior cartographically to some of the older examples.

The next name of importance is that of Sekisui, who in 1779 compiled a general map of Japan that considerably influenced his successors. Sekisui was the first Japanese to employ meridians as well as scale in his map.

In the early part of the 19th century attention was turned to the north, and Mogami Tokunai and Takahasi Sakusaimon made maps of *Jezo*. The most notable of the later mapmakers, prior to modern times, was, however, Ino Tadutaka (Chukei), who between 1800 and 1816 made an excellent detailed survey of the whole country.

Japan was not known to Europe until a far later date than China, and European maps of the country did not appear until the end of the 15th century with Fra Mauro (1459), Martellus (1490) and Behaim (1492). Abraham Ortelius, in his map of the East Indies, 1570, drew Japan as a fat little island something like a kite, with a long tail of minute islands at its head and tail. As if not entirely satisfied with this configuration, he gave an entirely different figure to Japan in his map of Asia published in the same year and the same atlas. In this case Japan was elongated and lost its upper tail. Mercator's map of Asia followed the same model for Japan. De Jode, in his map of Asia, gave yet another variation for Japan. He mapped it roughly in the shape of a thick crescent with two horns pointing due south. Linschoten, 1595-6, used the same conception.

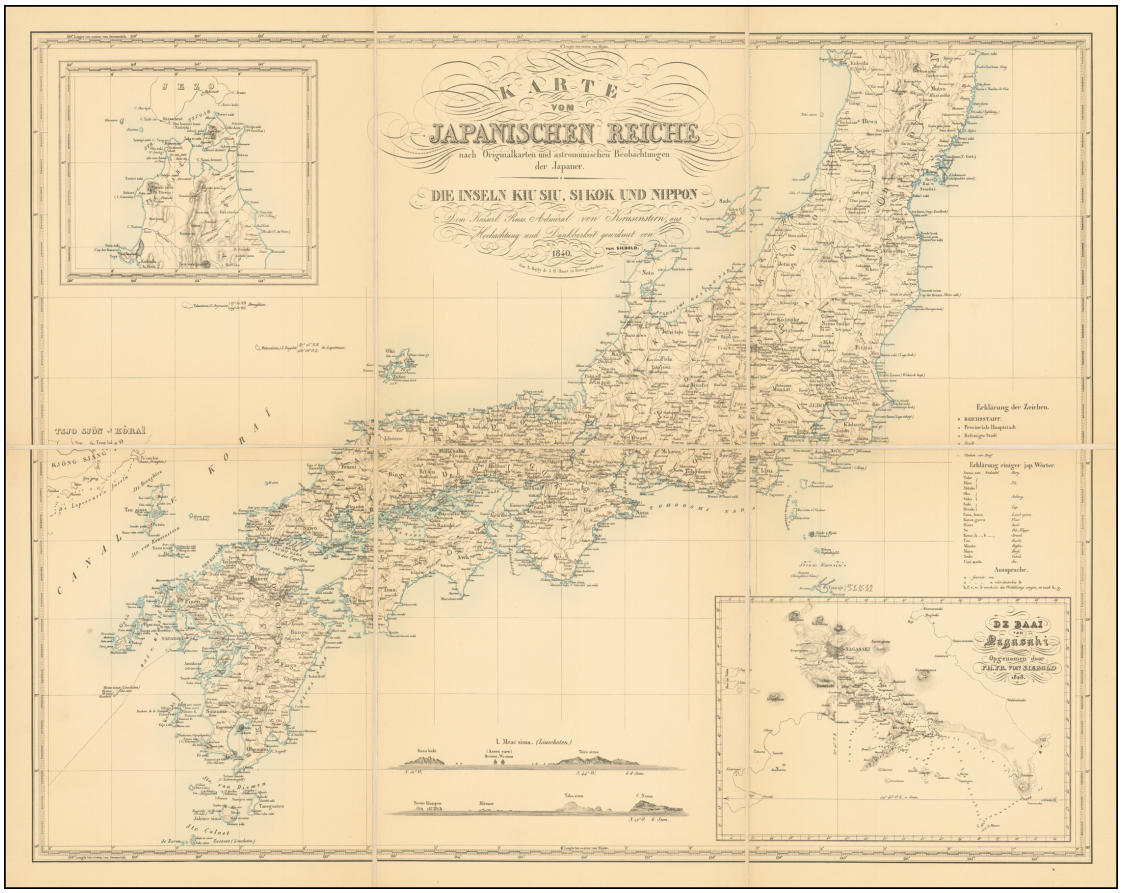
In 1595 Ortelius published his first separate map of Japan. This was compiled by Father Ludovico Texeira, and is important to the collector of Japanese maps as being the standard European map of Japan for many years. It was based on the *Gyogi* type and its title is *Japoniae Insula Descriptio Ludovico Teisera auctore*. It shows the island of Bungo running north and south and the larger island *Japonia* running due east and west. Korea is shown as a narrow island to the east.

The Texeira-Ortelius map was re-engraved by Hondius. He omitted the author's name and contracted the title to the single word "*Japonia*." It was practically an identical copy of Ortelius as regards the map itself, two names - *Fongo* and *AlIias* - being added, one omitted and two changed. The most noticeable alteration was the addition of a long inscription within the island of Korea, and the changing of the decorations by the substitution of a native ship for one of the European vessels depicted by Ortelius. Mercator's variant of the Texeira map was again re-issued by Jansson about 1650, without any change save in the decorations and the title, which was then amplified to *Japoniae nova descriptio*.

About the same time the Jesuit Father Briet compiled a new map of Japan that showed a distinct advance on the Texeira map. He altered some, and added more, place-names, marked internal boundaries, and considerably changed the contour of the coastline.

Just at the turn of the century, Schenk and Valek printed a map of Japan after Jansson, and this map was one of the earliest to show land to the north of the main island of Japan. This accretion was called *Landt van Eso*, and a considerable gap separated it from the mainland. Korea on this map was still marked as an island.

In 1750 the Sieur Robert published a map of the Japanese empire, and this at last began to show the more correct northeastward sweep of the islands, with Korea correctly given as a peninsula.



Karte vom Japanischen Reiche nach Originalkarten und astronomischen Beobachtungen der Japaner. -- Die Inseln Kiu Siu, Sikok und Nippon Dem Kaiserl. Russ. Admiral von Krusenstern, aus Hochachtund und Dankbarkeit gweidinet von 1840. von Siebold. . . . Map of the Japan Is!ands copied from von Siebolds with slight additions & corrections, by the U.S. Japan Expedition and other authorities. Compiled by order of Commodore M. C. Perry. USN. by W.L Maury and Salis Bent. Phillip Franz von Siebold

This highly significant map is the first truly modern map of Japan printed in the Western world, based upon information obtained by Siebold during his travels in Japan, primarily the groud-breaking surveys made by the Japanese cartographer Ino Tadataka. It represents a radical improvement over all previous maps of Japan, and was by far the most accurate impression of the islands available during the opening of Japan to Westerners, following the visit of American Commodore Matthew C. Parry in 1854.

The main map embraces most of Honshu and all of Shikoku and Kyushu. Hokkaido, referred to as "*Jezo*", is essentially absent, for it had not yet been properly mapped. Insets include the northern tip of Honshu (in the upper left) and a detailed sea chart of the Harbor of Nagasaki (in the lower right), which was the only port in Japan then open to western commerce. Overall, the geography is shockingly modern and accurate, especially in comparison to earlier maps of the islands. Due to the Japanese Shogunate's longtime restrictions on foreign visitation to the country, Japan was one of the last heavily populated regions of East Asia to be comprehensively

mapped by westerners. Siebold's work thus represents a major milestone, as positions were clearly regulated by astronomical observations, placing the map within its correct geodetic framework. Great care is taken to label the locations of mountains, roads, prefectural boundaries, and towns. Siebold, who was a keen ethnographer, even provides a table translating Japanese geographical terms into German (along the right side of the map).

One interesting feature of the map is the inclusion of the island of "*Argonaut*", a mis-identification of the Korean island of Ulleungdo, originally made by the captain of the HMS Argonaut in 1789. British Captain James Colnett mis-mapped Ulleungdo at the coordinates 37º 32' N and 129º 50' E, resulting in the island of "*Argonaut*" showing up on many western maps to the northwest of Ulleungdo, which at the time was referred to on western maps as *Dagelet Island*. Siebold names the island "*Takeshima*," which was the Japanese name for Ulleungdo, and the real Ulleungdo as "*Matsushima*," which was the Japanese name for Liancourt Rocks.

Dr. Siebold's inclusion of the island was of significant consequence as his map was deemed authoritative by many. Of note, in 1876, a Japanese businessman Mutoh Heigaku, petitioned the Japanese government to develop Matsushima, which he believed to be Japanese territory.

Phillip Franz von Siebold (1796-1866) was a German physician, who joined the service of the Dutch East India Company (the VOC). In 1822-23, he travelled to Batavia (modern Jakarta), the capital of the Dutch East Indies. Residing in Japan from 1823, he quickly made contact with the country's leading scholars, as well as many senior political officials, and steadily acquired an unprecedented collection of botanical and ethnographic specimens. Sielbold's intense intellectual curiosity also led him to search for the most advanced cartography of East Asia.

The present map is from Siebold's epic study of Japan and Korea, Nippon. *Archiv zur Beschreibung von Japan und dessen Neben- und Schutzländern: jezo mit den südlichen Kurilen, Krafto, Koorai und den Liukiu-Inseln* (7 volumes, printed in Leiden, Netherlands, 1832-1852). Highly detailed and profusely illustrated, it was by far the finest and most important European study of the history, ethnography, geography and flora and fauna of Japan and Korea published to date. More than any other work, it showcased Japan and Korea to western intelligentsia, on the eve of the wholesale opening of these countries to European trade and exchange.

Sielbold's intense intellectual curiosity led him to search for the most advanced cartography of Japan and Korea. While on a visit to *Edo* (modern Tokyo) in 1826, he befriended Takahashi Kageyasu, the Japanese court astronomer, who provided him with a series of sophisticated maps, many of which were by the late Ino Tadataka (1745-1818). Tadataka famously conducted the first modern mapping of Japan, as well as compiling maps of Korea from the latest sources.

Curiously, it was Siebold's interest in cartography that led to the so-called "*Siebold Incident*", which resulted in his expulsion from Japan. While the Japanese authorities seemed tolerant, if not a little bemused, by Siebold's endeavors to collect natural specimens, this indulgence had its limitations. In 1829, when officials accidentally discovered Siebold's map collection, they were aghast that a foreigner possessed sources that contained such accurate and detailed geographical intelligence and military information. Accusing him of being a Russian spy, they placed him under house arrest, before expelling him from the country. Surprisingly, the Japanese

authorities did not confiscate all of Siebold's maps, allowing him to take them back to Europe.

Upon Siebold's return to Europe in 1830, he settled in the Dutch university town of Leiden. He soon opened a magnificent museum for his specimen collection, and set to work on his monumental publication of Nippon, a project that would last 20 years. During this period he carefully prepared finished manuscript maps, in preparation for them to be lithographed.

Dr. Phillip Franz von Siebold may be a distant relative of mine.